

JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN

Bandits and bullies both relied on his sense of fair play. When, as a boy, he tended to pet animals rather than play with his toys, people thought he was simple-headed. It was this spirit of kindness, however, that guided his lifelong fight against injustice and inequality. The rough and tumble of political life may have bewildered him, but the country recognised in Jayaprakash Narayan an honest, brilliant and selfless Gandhian.

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JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN

A SOLDIER FOR JUSTICE

Vol 693 | ₹50

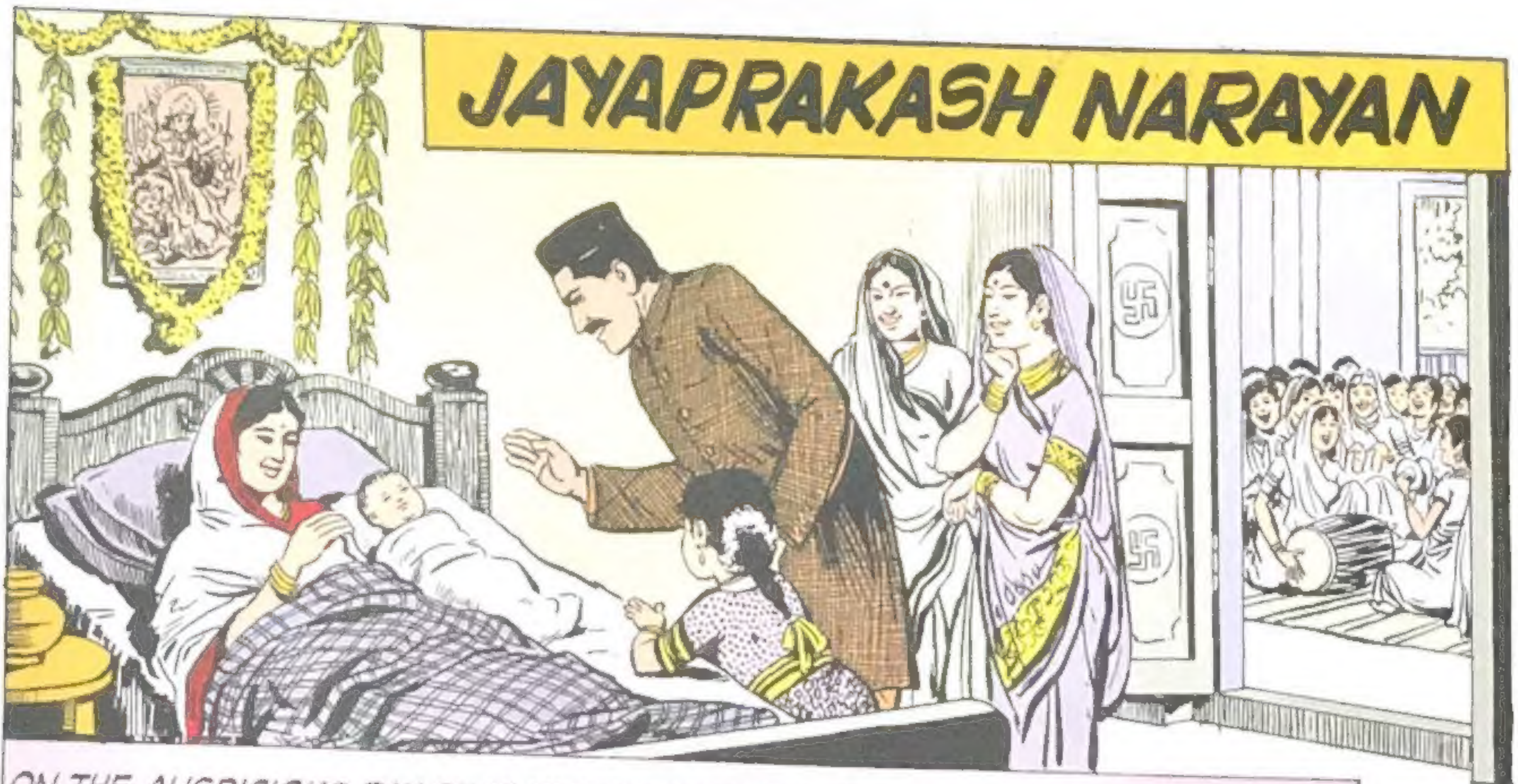


ISBN 81-8482-125-5



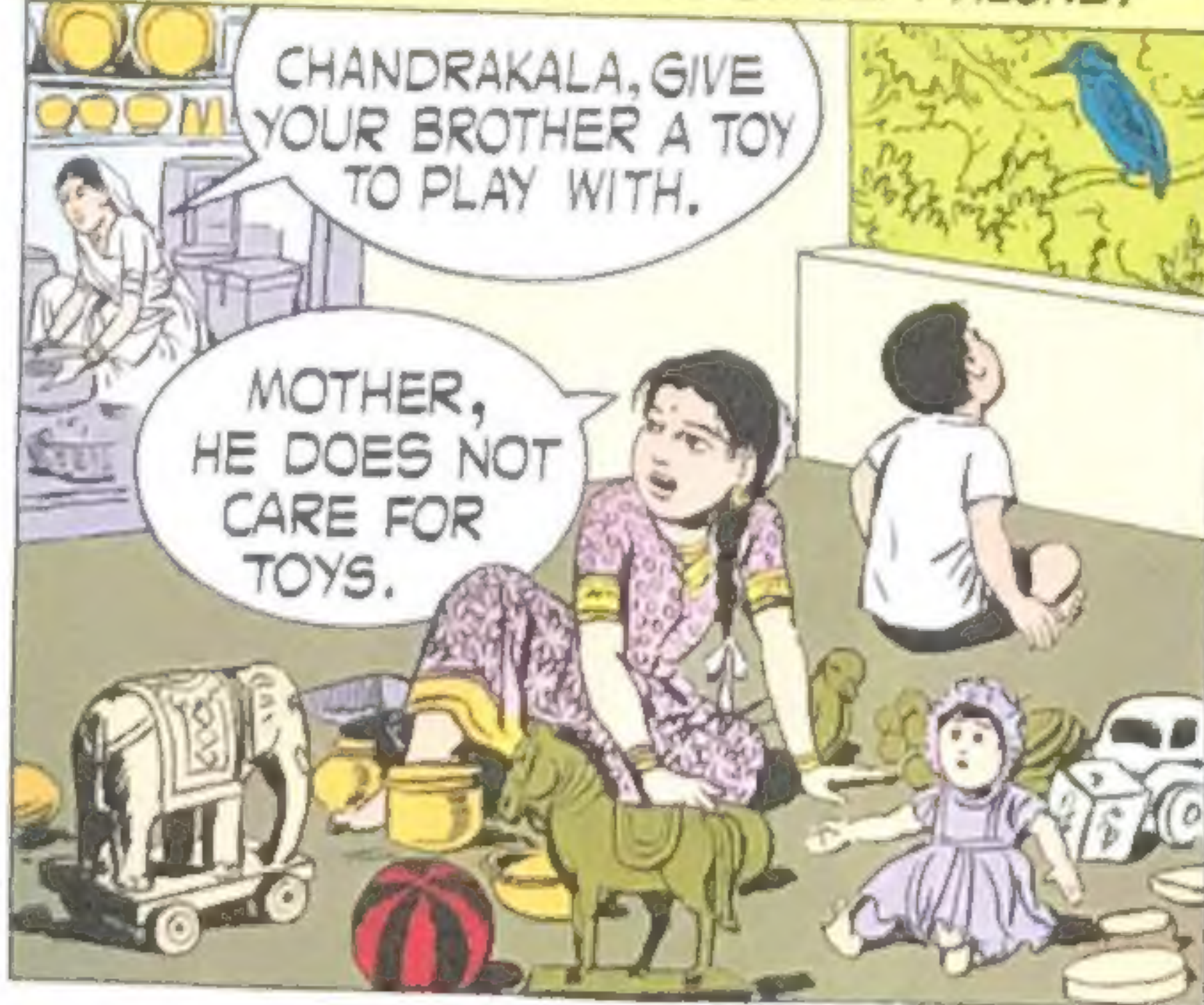
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JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN

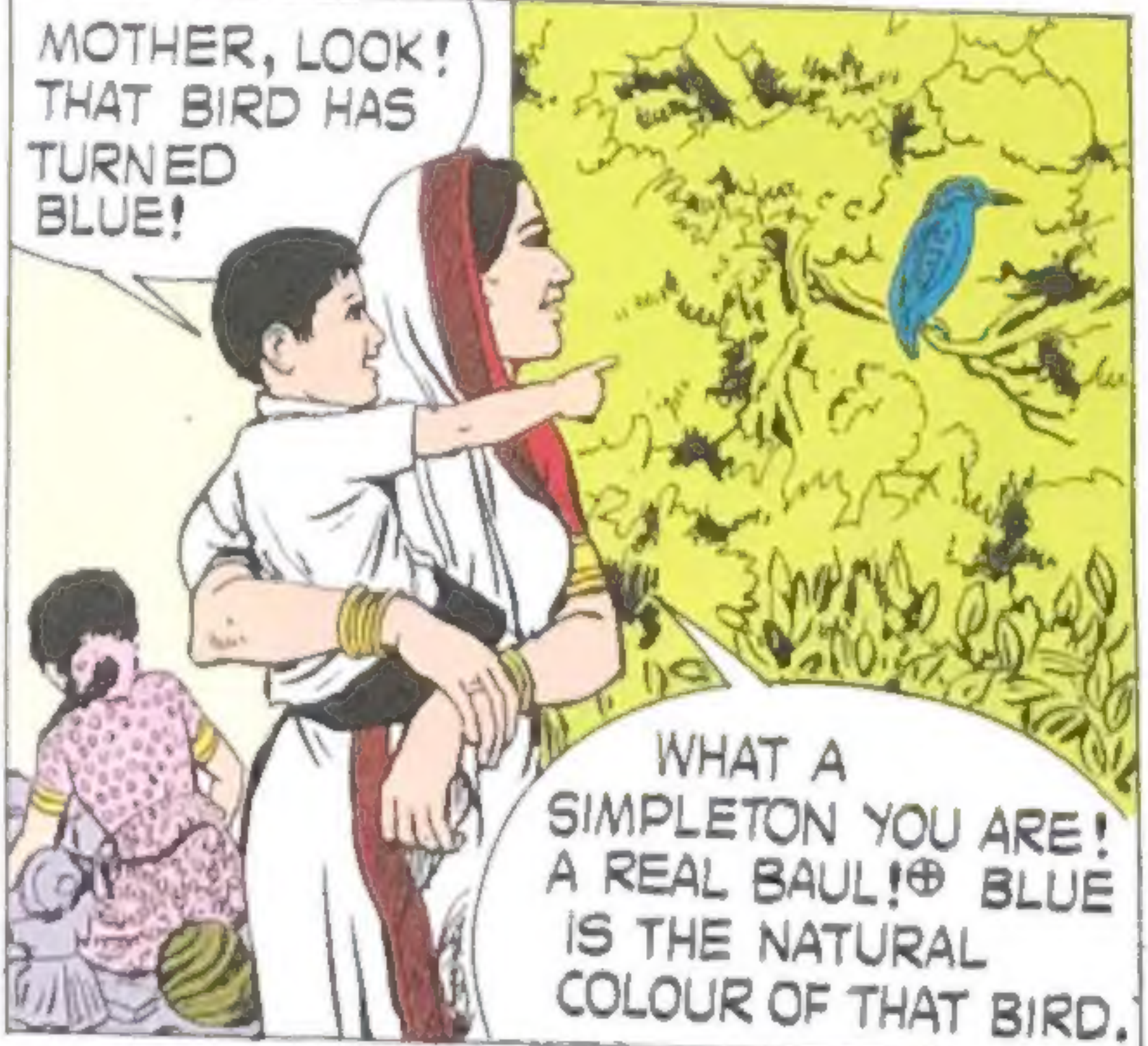


ON THE AUSPICIOUS DAY OF VIJAYA DASHAMI (11 TH OCTOBER, 1902), THERE WAS FESTIVITY IN THE HOUSE OF BABU HARSU DAYAL IN SITABDIARA.* HIS WIFE, PHUL RANI, HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO A SON. THE CHILD WAS NAMED JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN.

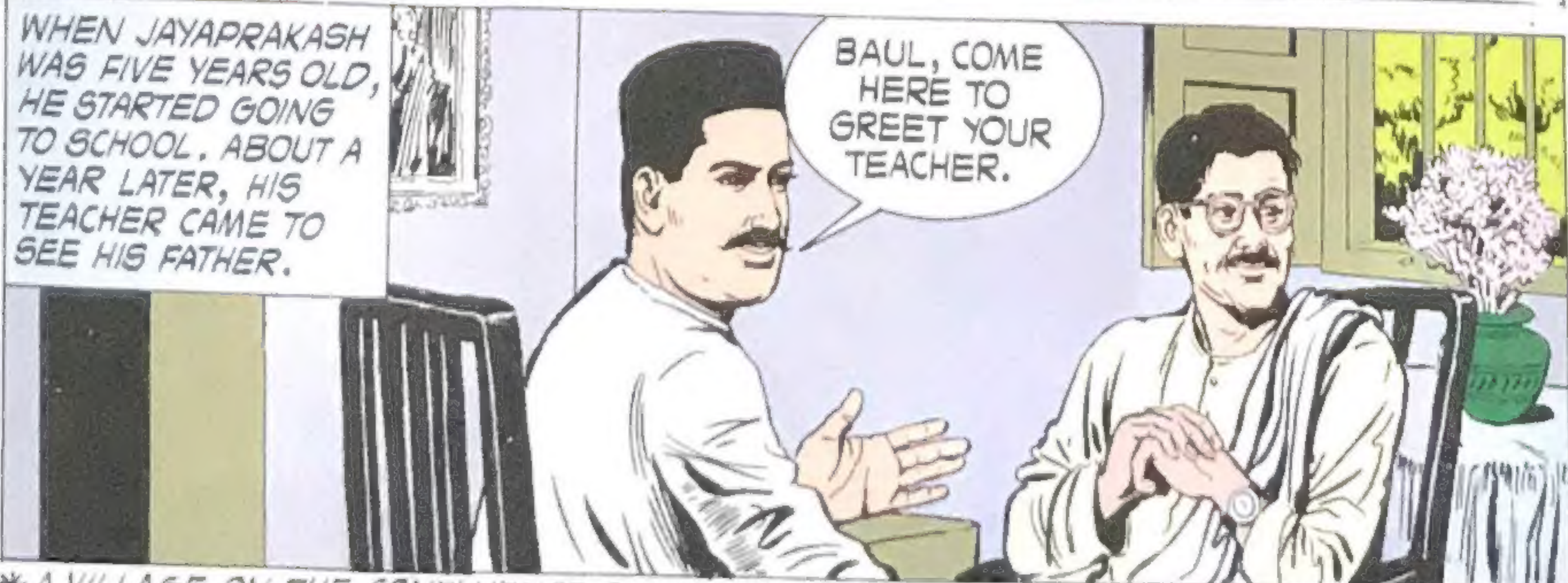
THE LITTLE BOY LIKED TO BE LEFT ALONE.



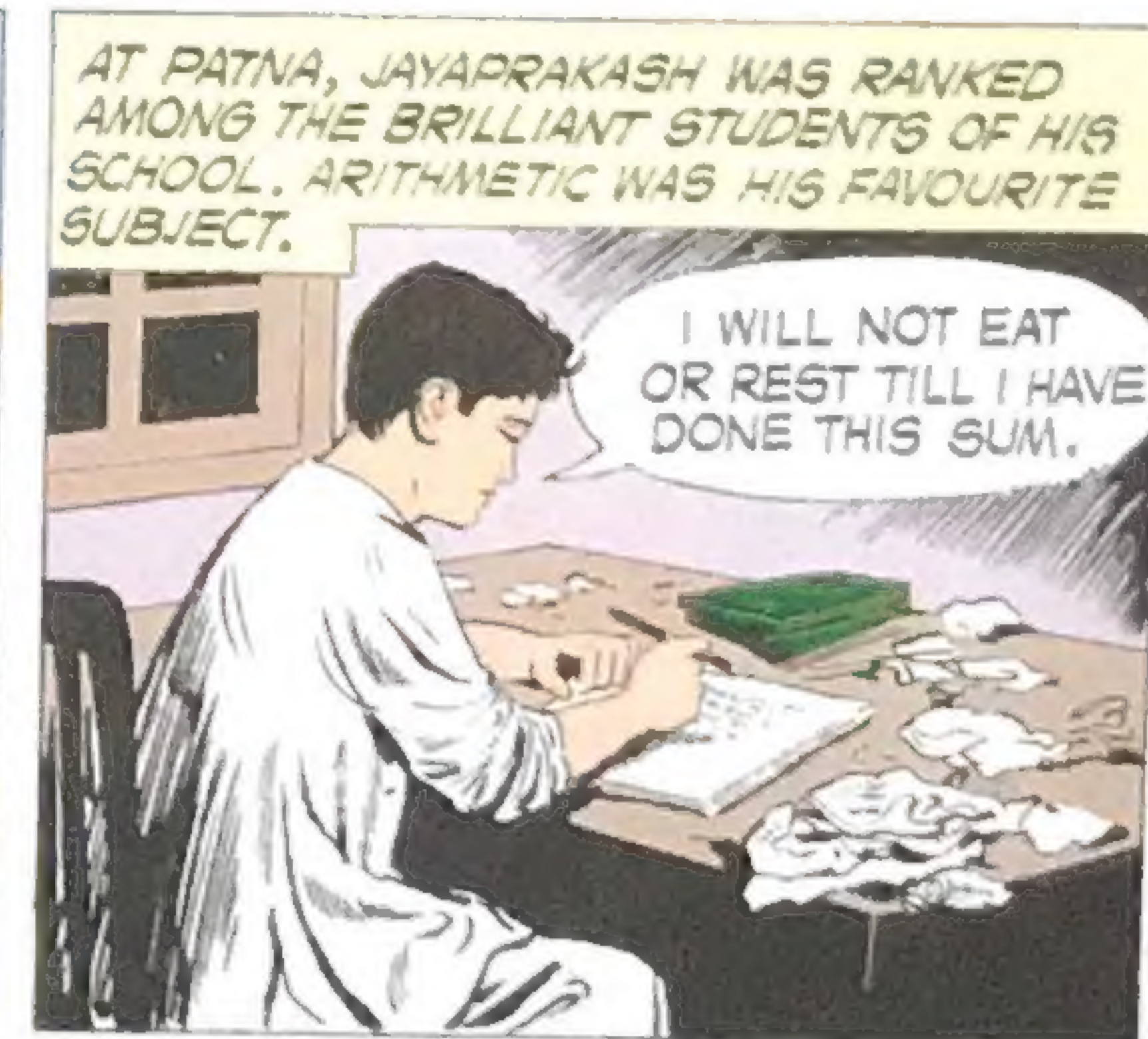
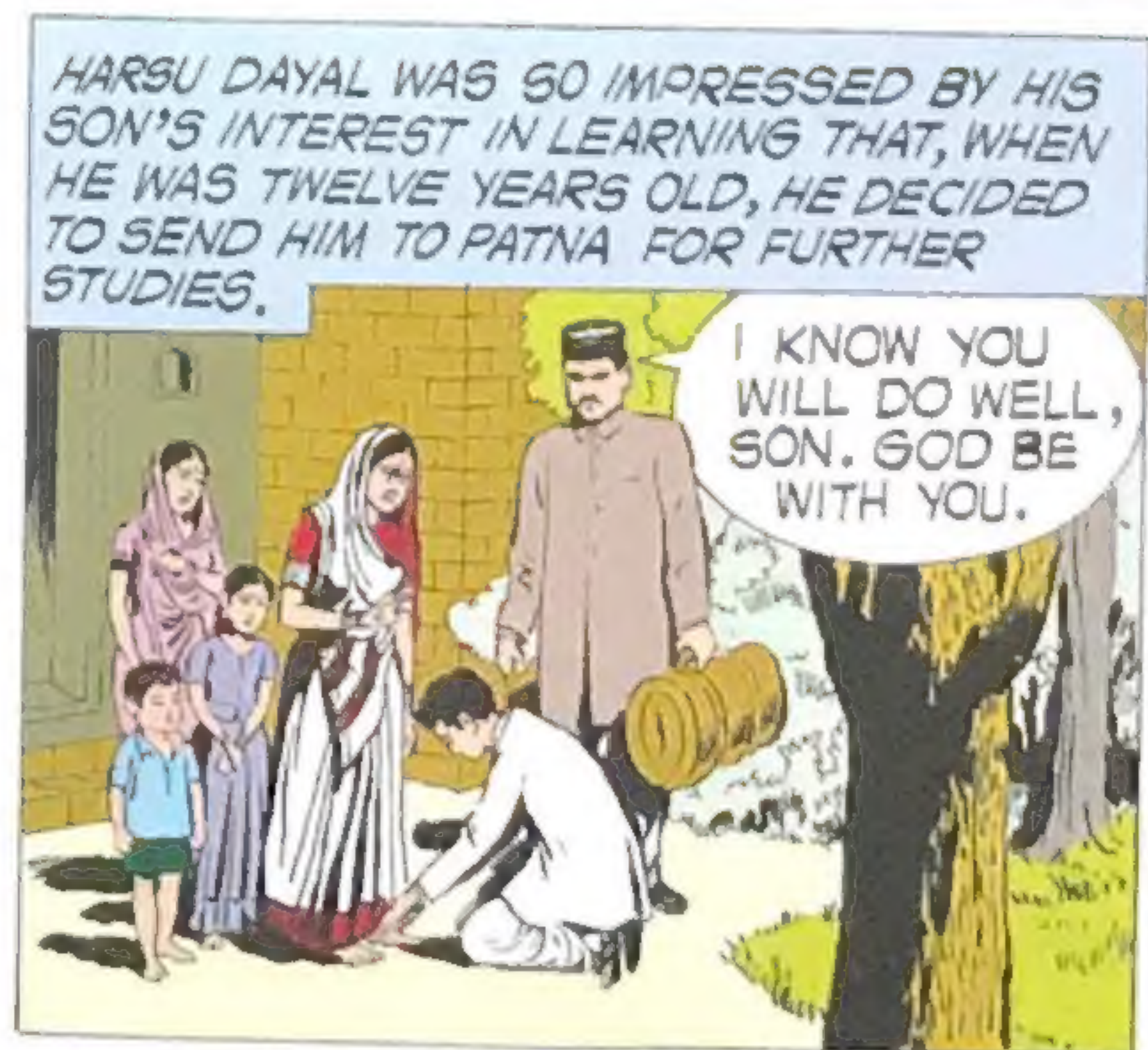
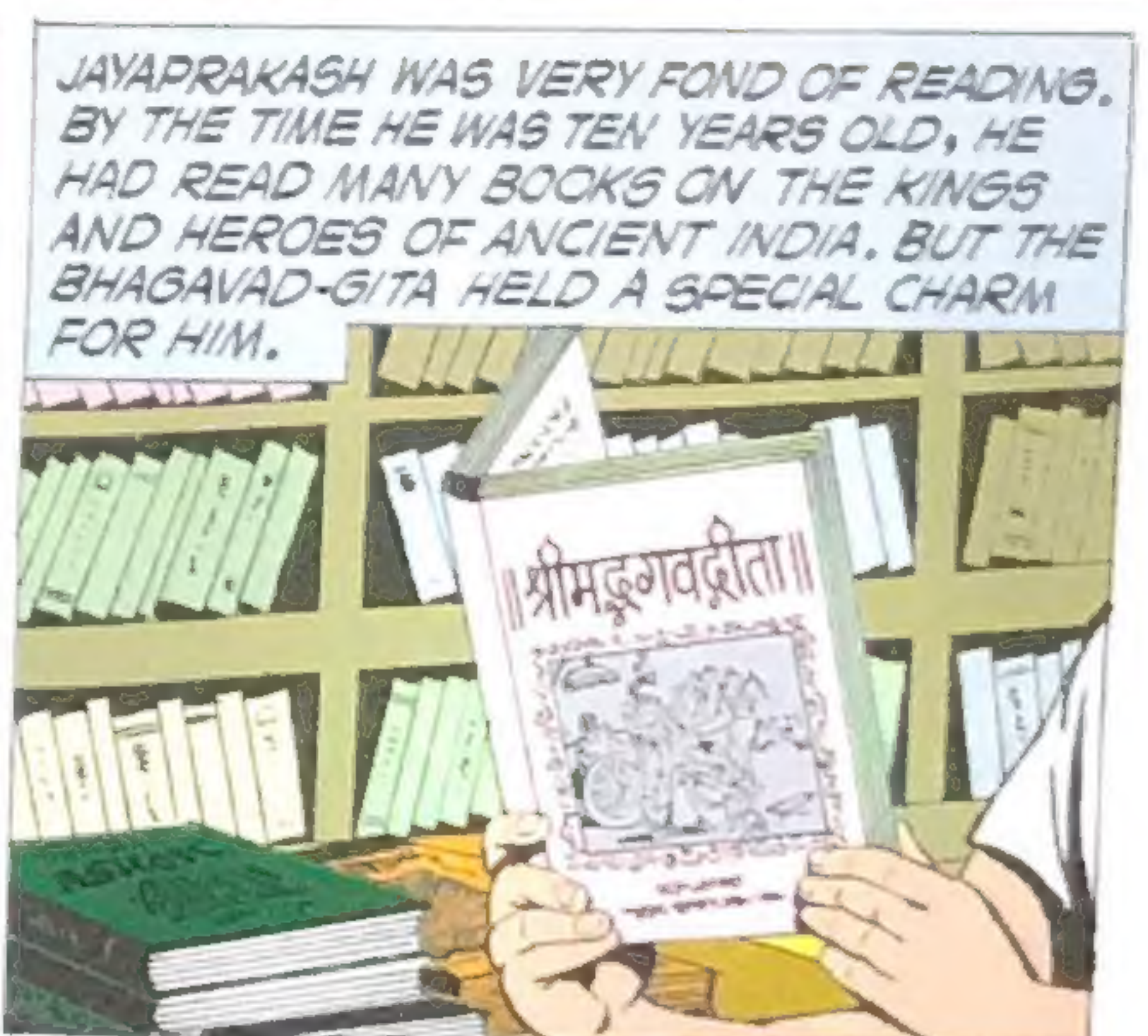
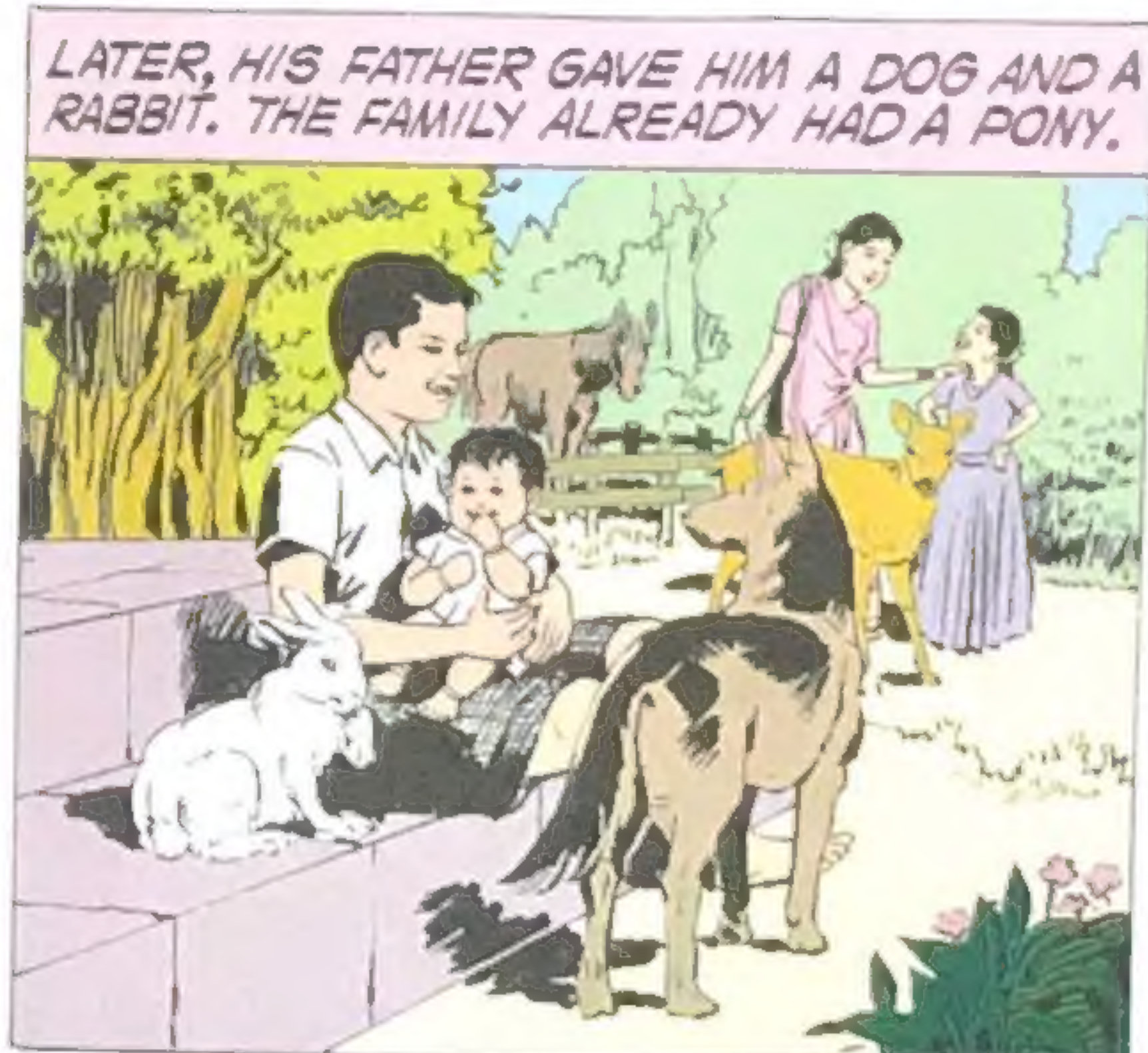
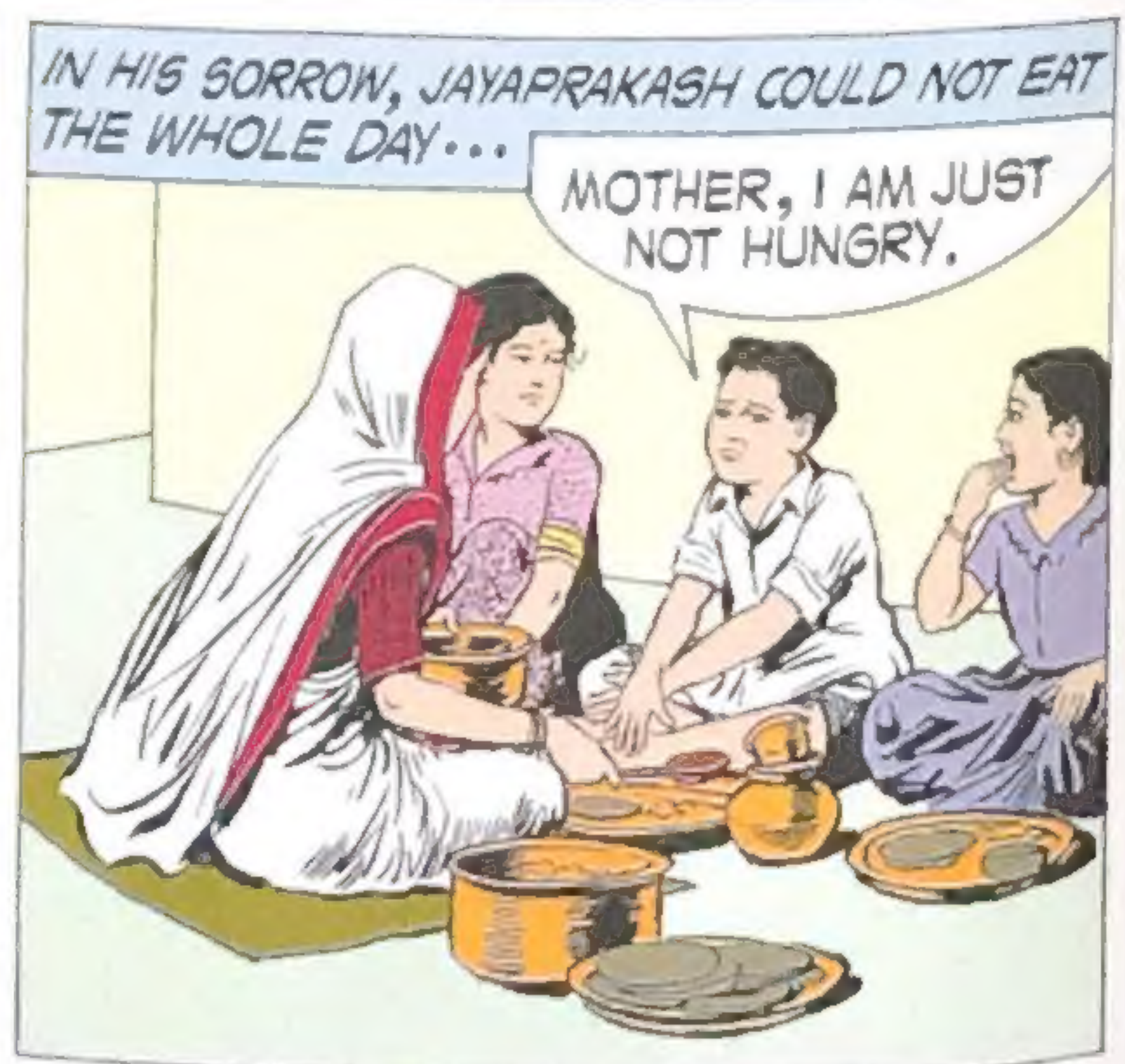
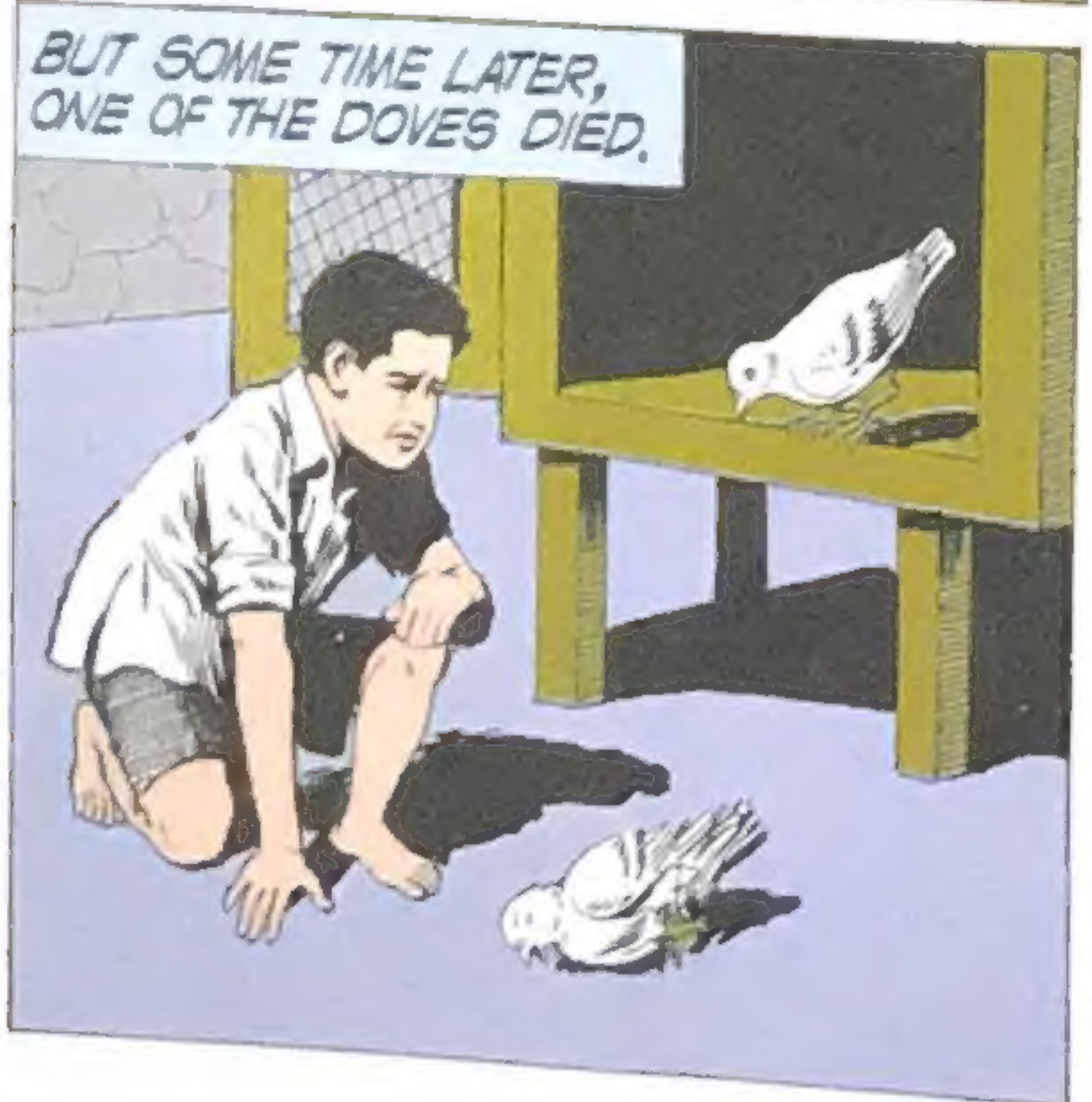
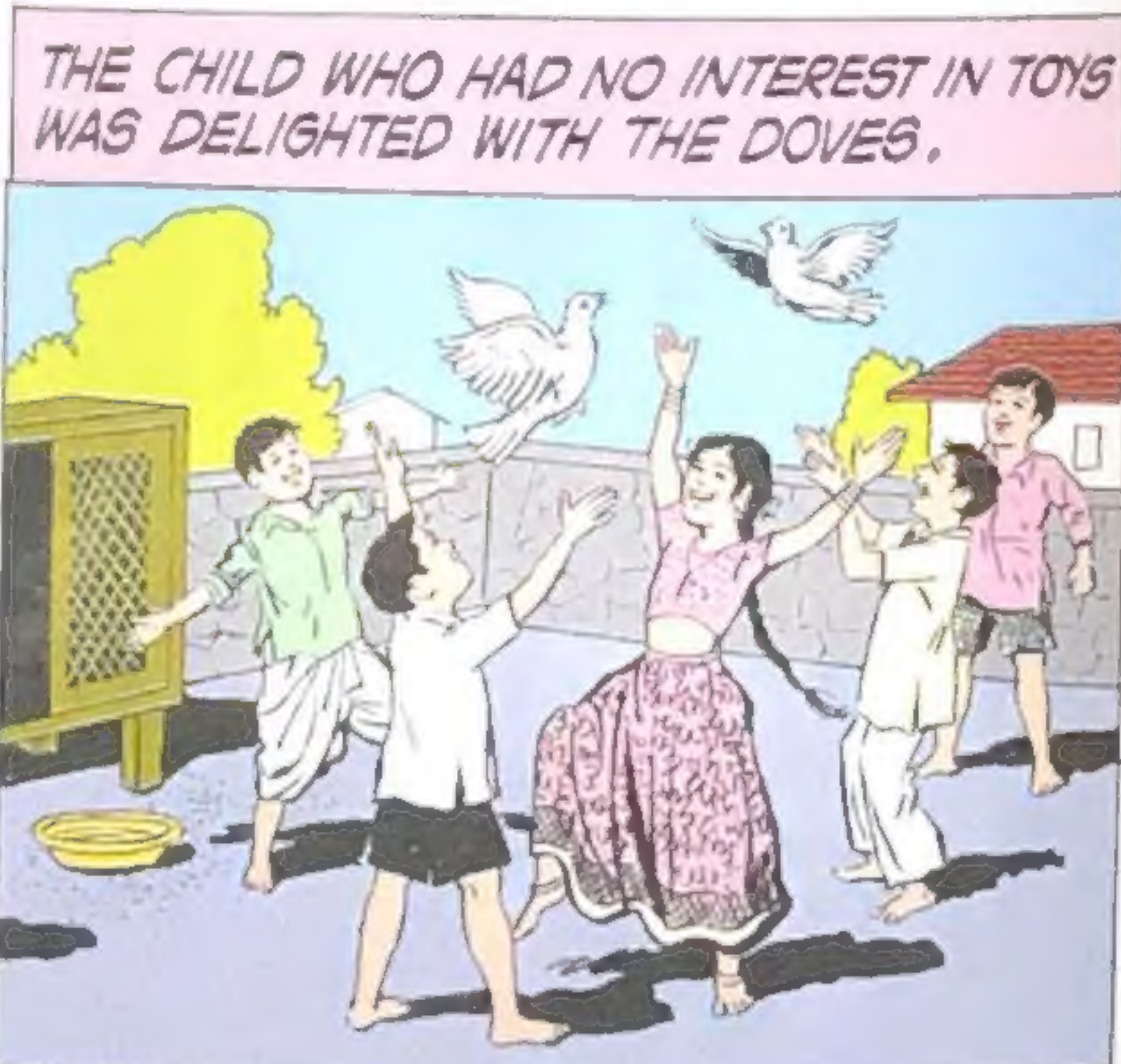
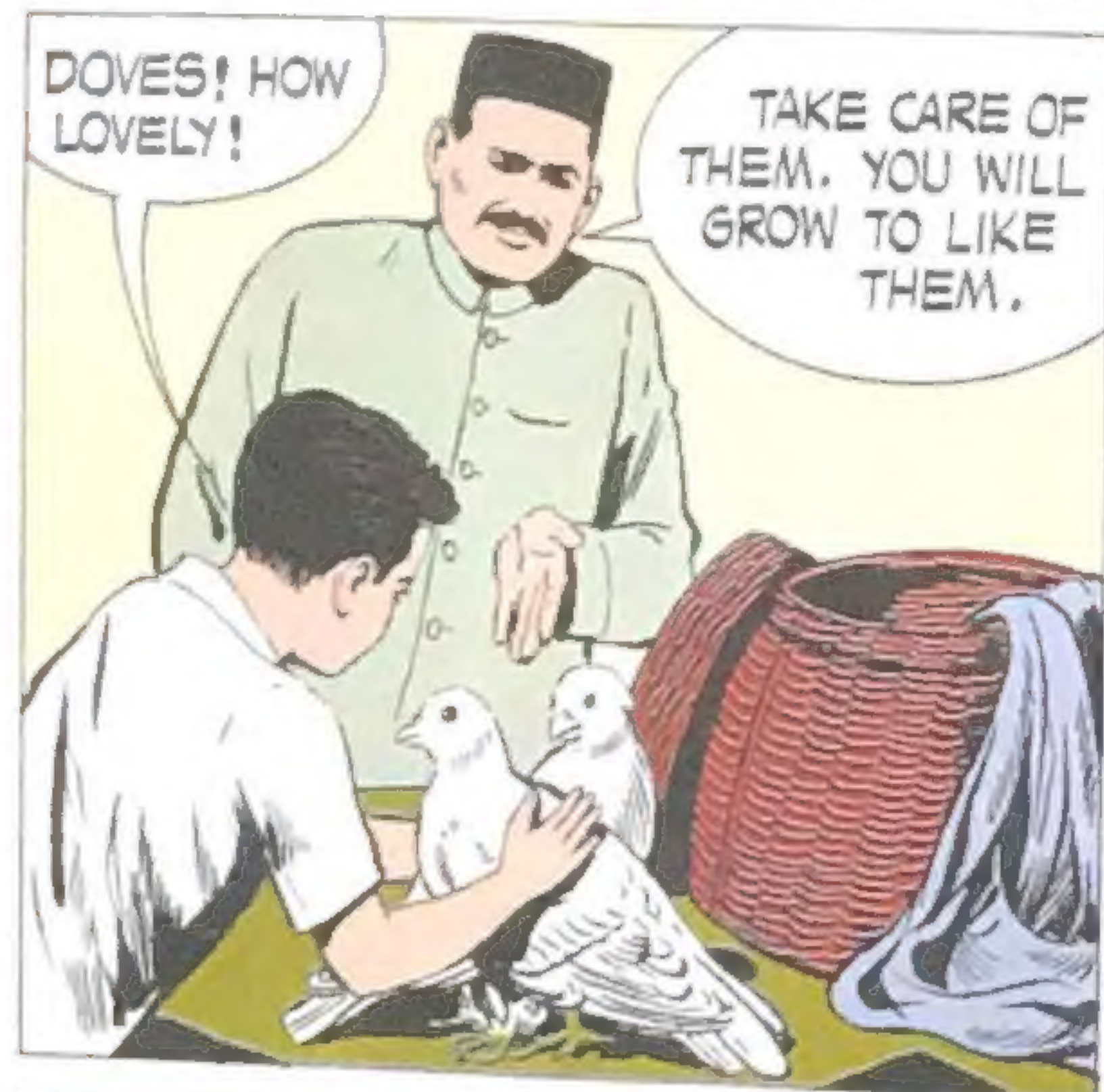
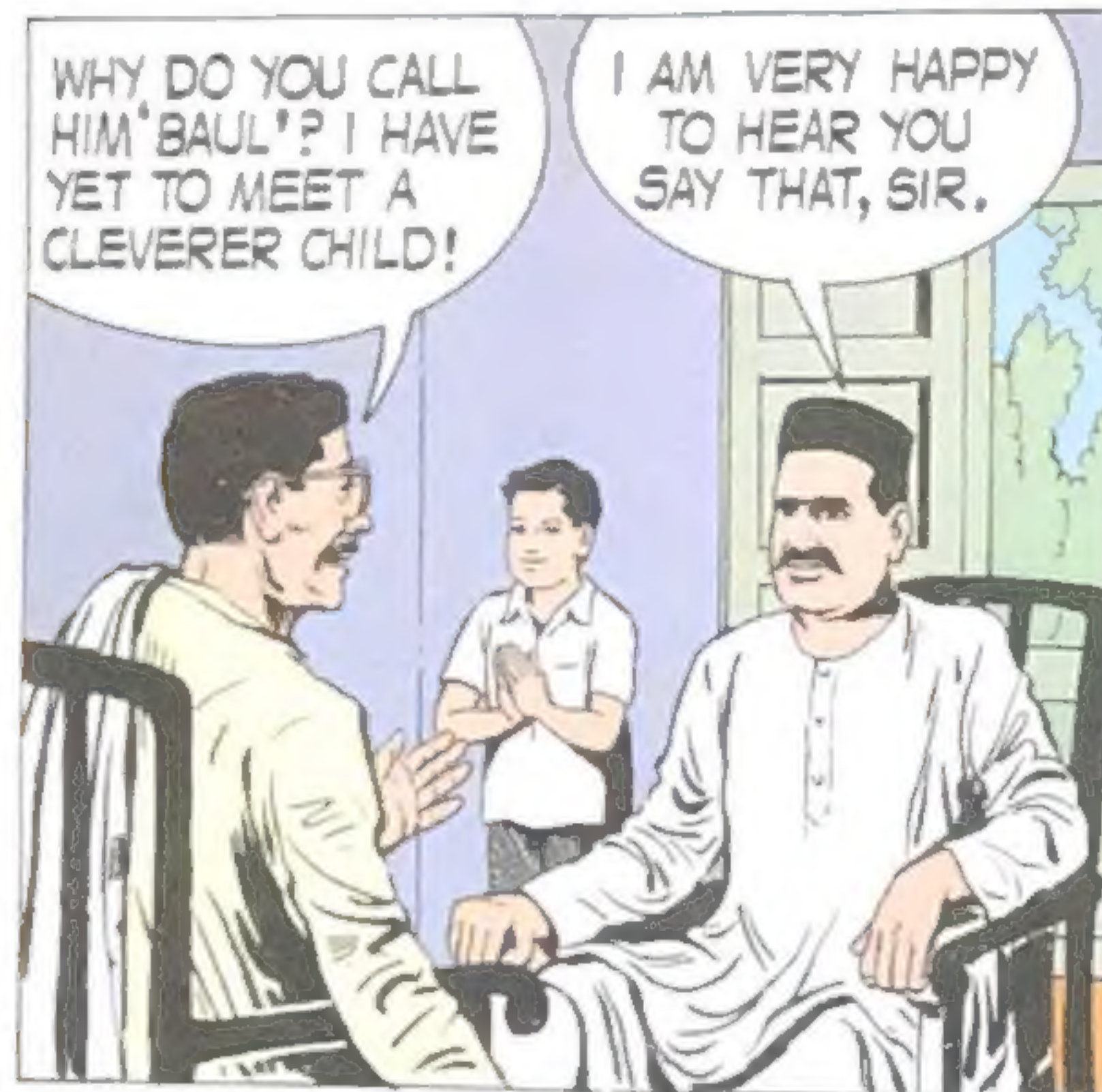
MOTHER, LOOK! THAT BIRD HAS TURNED BLUE!



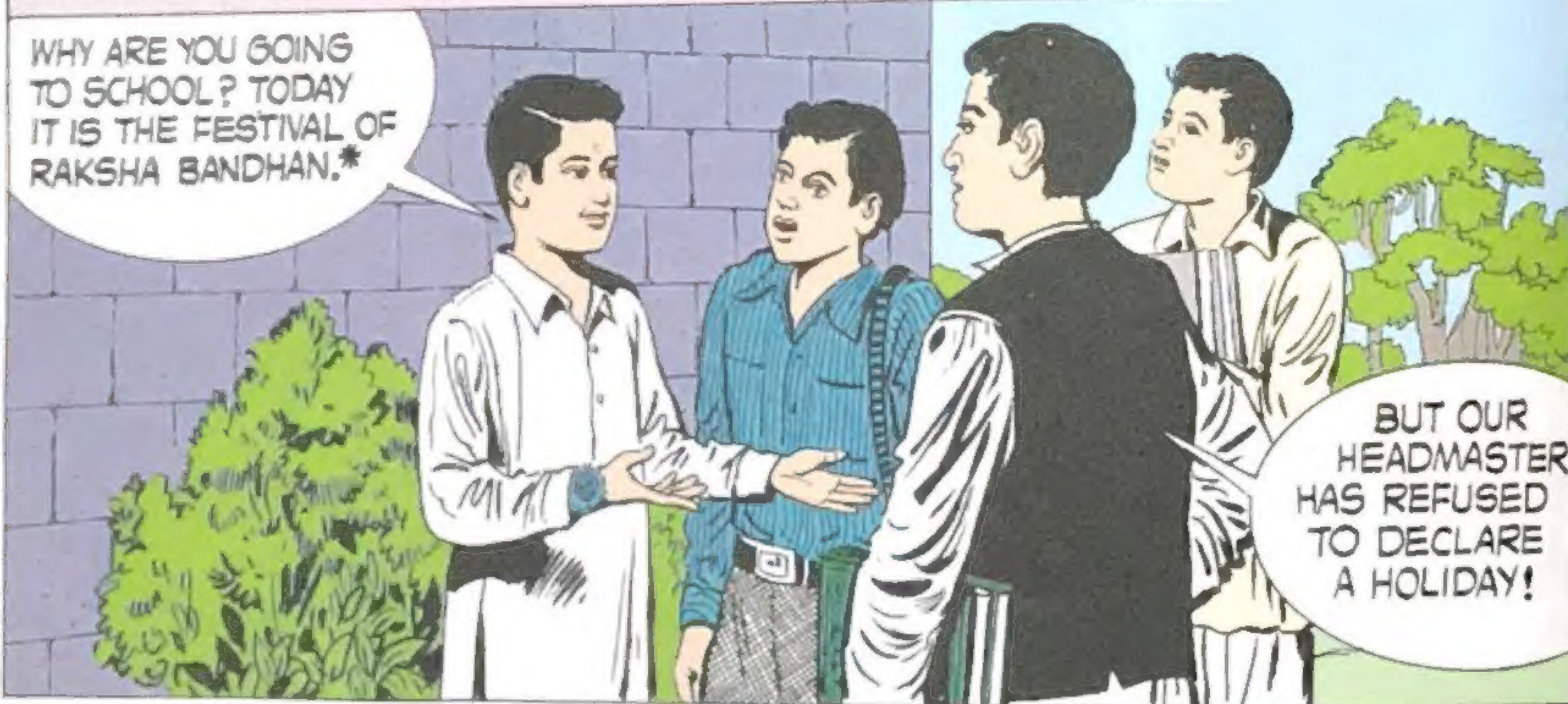
WHEN JAYAPRAKASH WAS FIVE YEARS OLD, HE STARTED GOING TO SCHOOL. ABOUT A YEAR LATER, HIS TEACHER CAME TO SEE HIS FATHER.



* A VILLAGE ON THE CONFLUENCE OF THE GANGA AND THE SARAYU ON THE U.P.-BIHAR BORDER
⊕ A SIMPLETON



JAYAPRAKASH LIVED AT SARASWATI BHAVAN HOSTEL. ONE MORNING —



HE IS AN ENGLISHMAN, SO HE DOESN'T KNOW THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS FESTIVAL. I CAN'T ACCEPT HIS DECISION. I WILL NOT ATTEND SCHOOL TODAY.



THE NEXT DAY, THE HEADMASTER, MR. WHITMORE, SENT FOR HIM.



JAYAPRAKASH GOT FIVE STROKES OF THE CANE.



JAYAPRAKASH'S ACT OF PROTEST DID NOT GO UNNOTICED. HE WON THE HEARTS OF THE OLDER BOYS OF THE HOSTEL WHO WERE DEEPLY INTERESTED IN THE POLITICAL SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY.

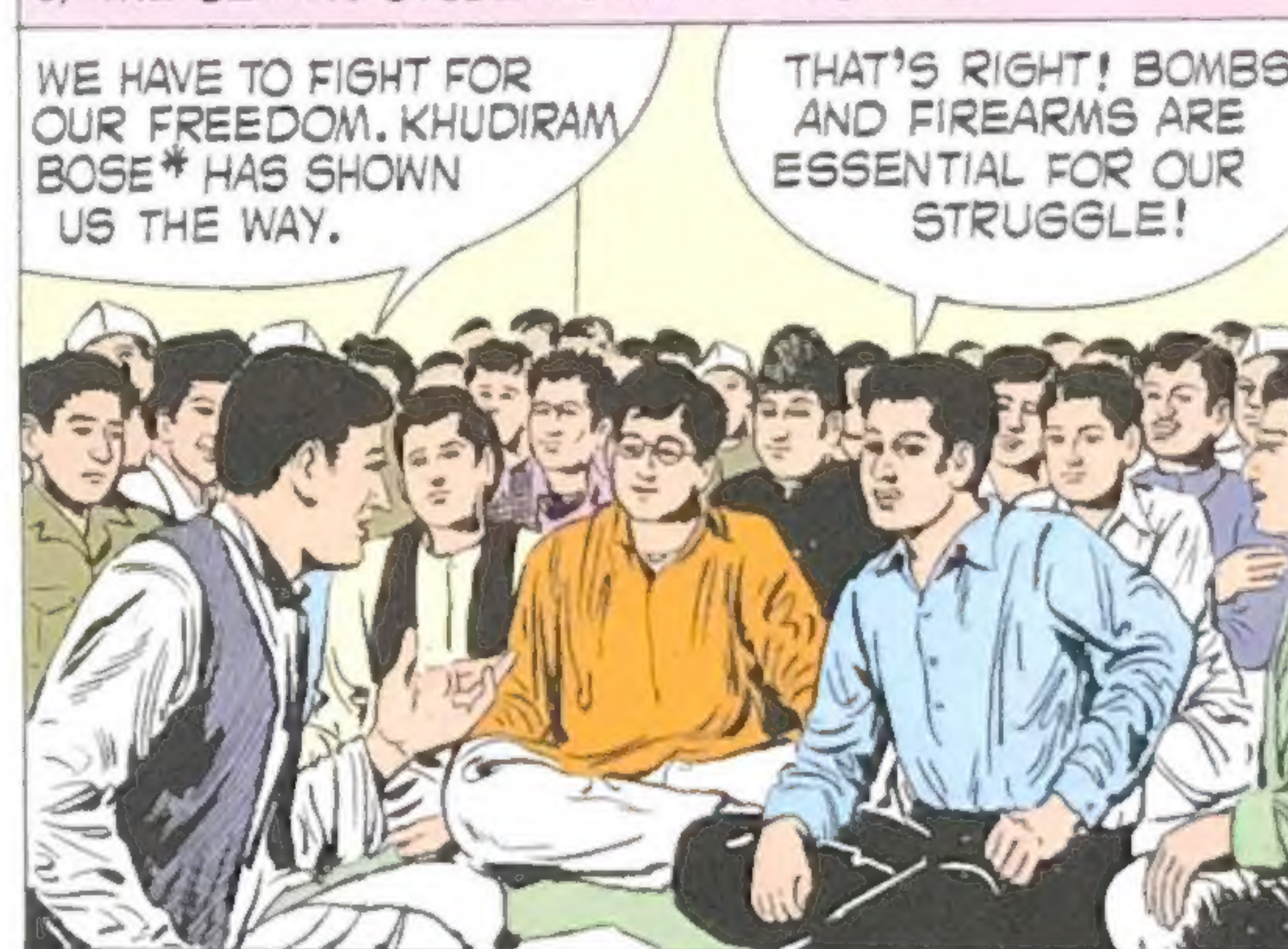


* A RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL, WHEN FRATERNAL TIES ARE STRENGTHENED BY THE TYING OF THE SYMBOLIC THREAD

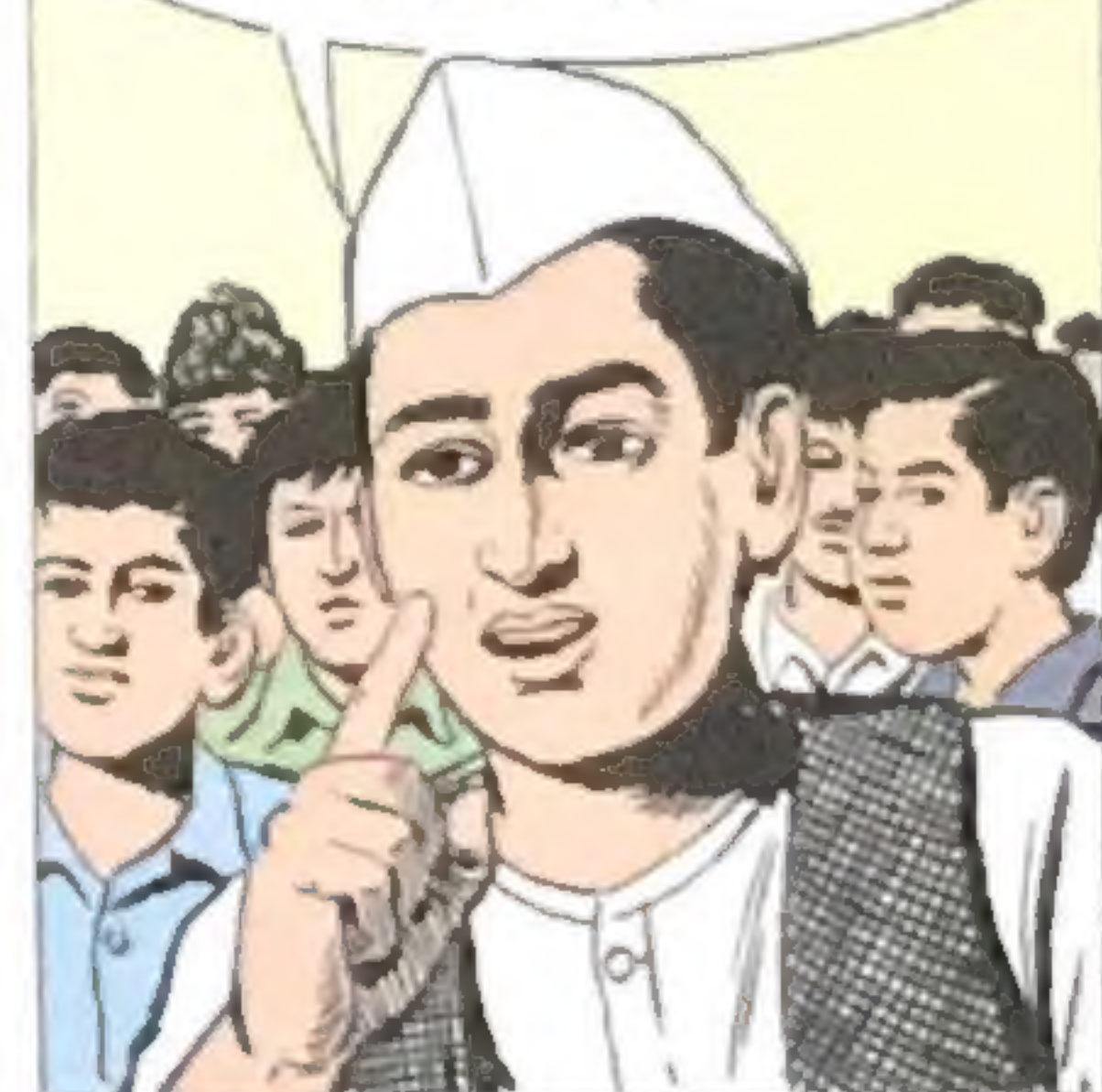
THE MEETINGS WERE HELD IN THE ROOM OF CHHOTAN SINGH, ONE OF THE STUDENTS.



JAYAPRAKASH ALSO TOOK TO ATTENDING THE MEETINGS OF THE SENIOR STUDENTS IN THE HOSTEL.



NO! GANDHI HAS SHOWN A BETTER WAY IN CHAMPARAN—BY BRINGING TO HEEL THE INDIGO SAHIBS THROUGH HIS NON-VIOLENT SATYAGRAHA. WE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS WAY.



YOU ARE WRONG. WE MUST OCCUPY ALL GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENTS BY FORCE AND FINISH OFF THE BRITISH WITH BOMBS!



WHEN HE WAS SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD, JAYAPRAKASH PASSED HIS MATRICULATION EXAMINATION WITH FIRST CLASS MARKS AND HE WAS AWARDED A MERIT SCHOLARSHIP. HE OPTED FOR FURTHER STUDIES IN SCIENCE.

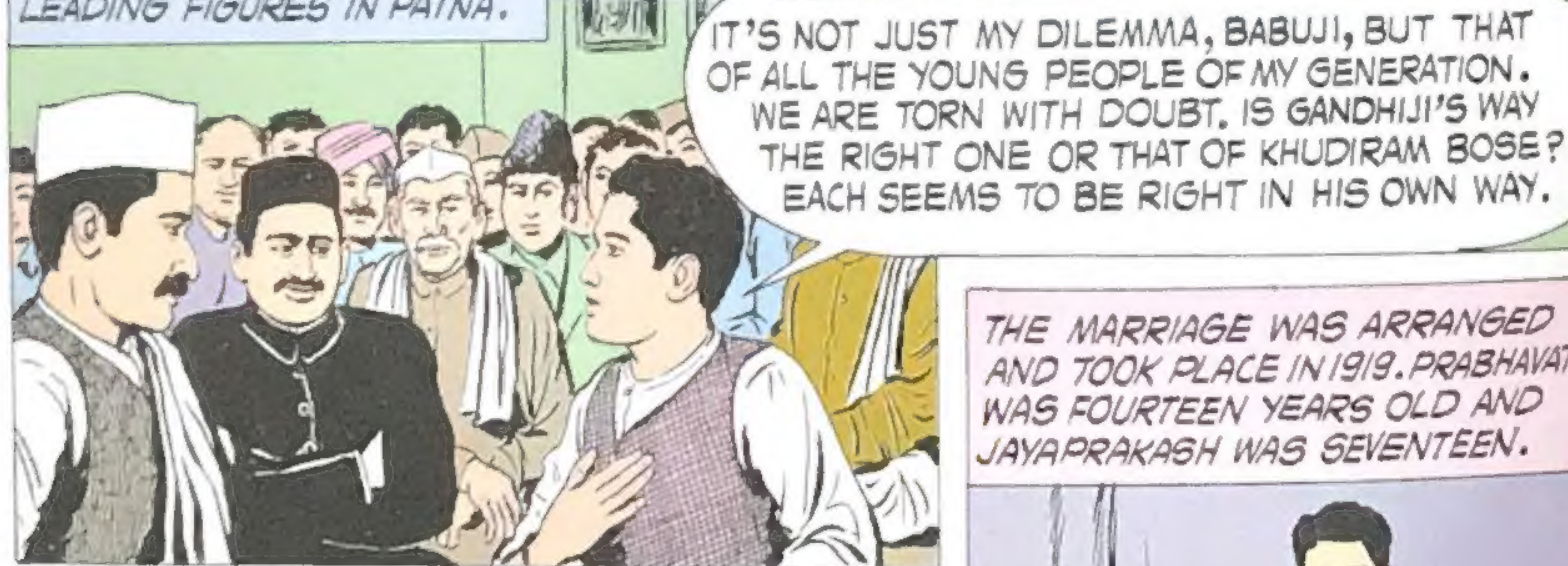


* THE FIRST REVOLUTIONARY TO THROW A BOMB AT AN ENGLISHMAN

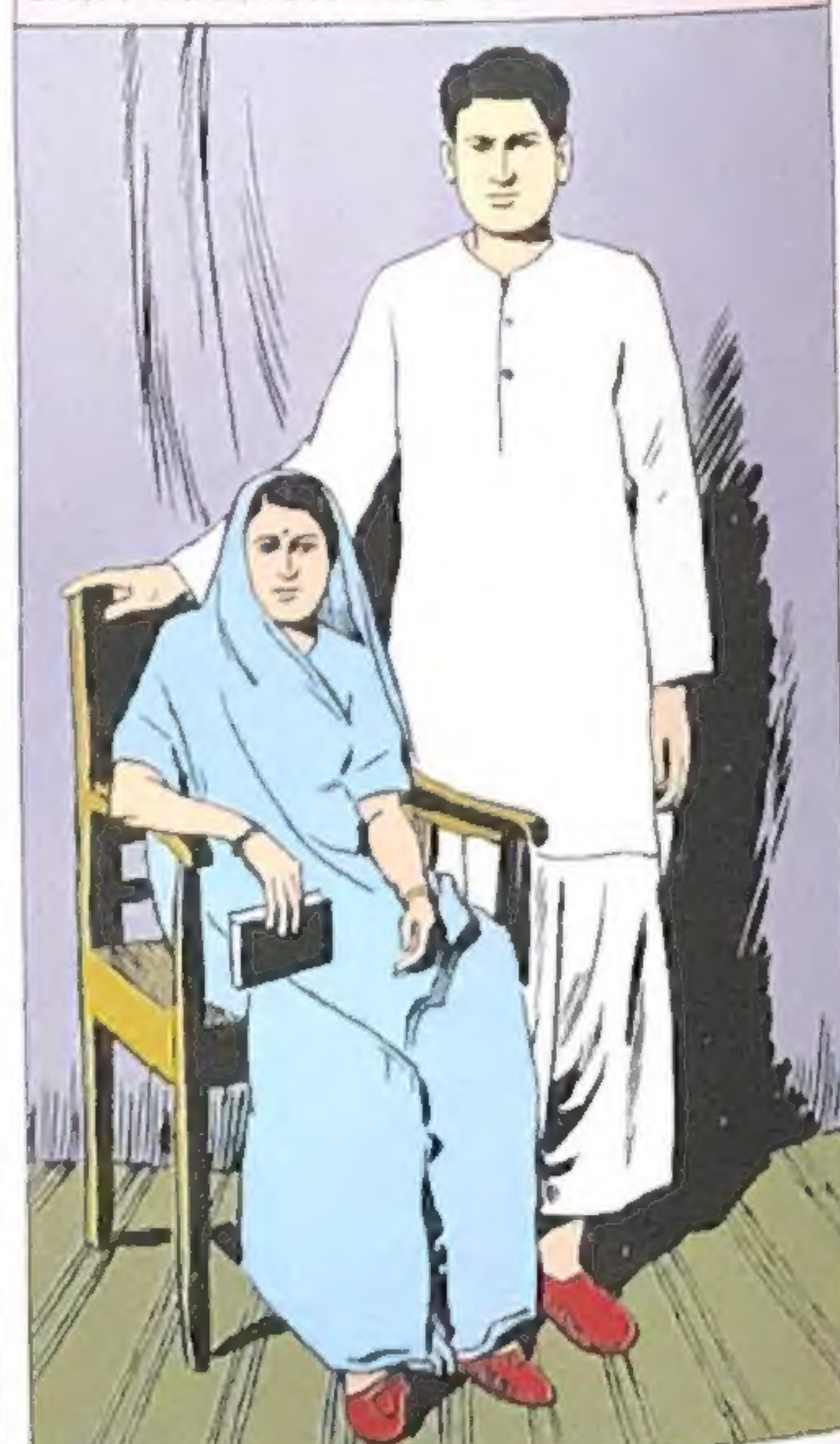
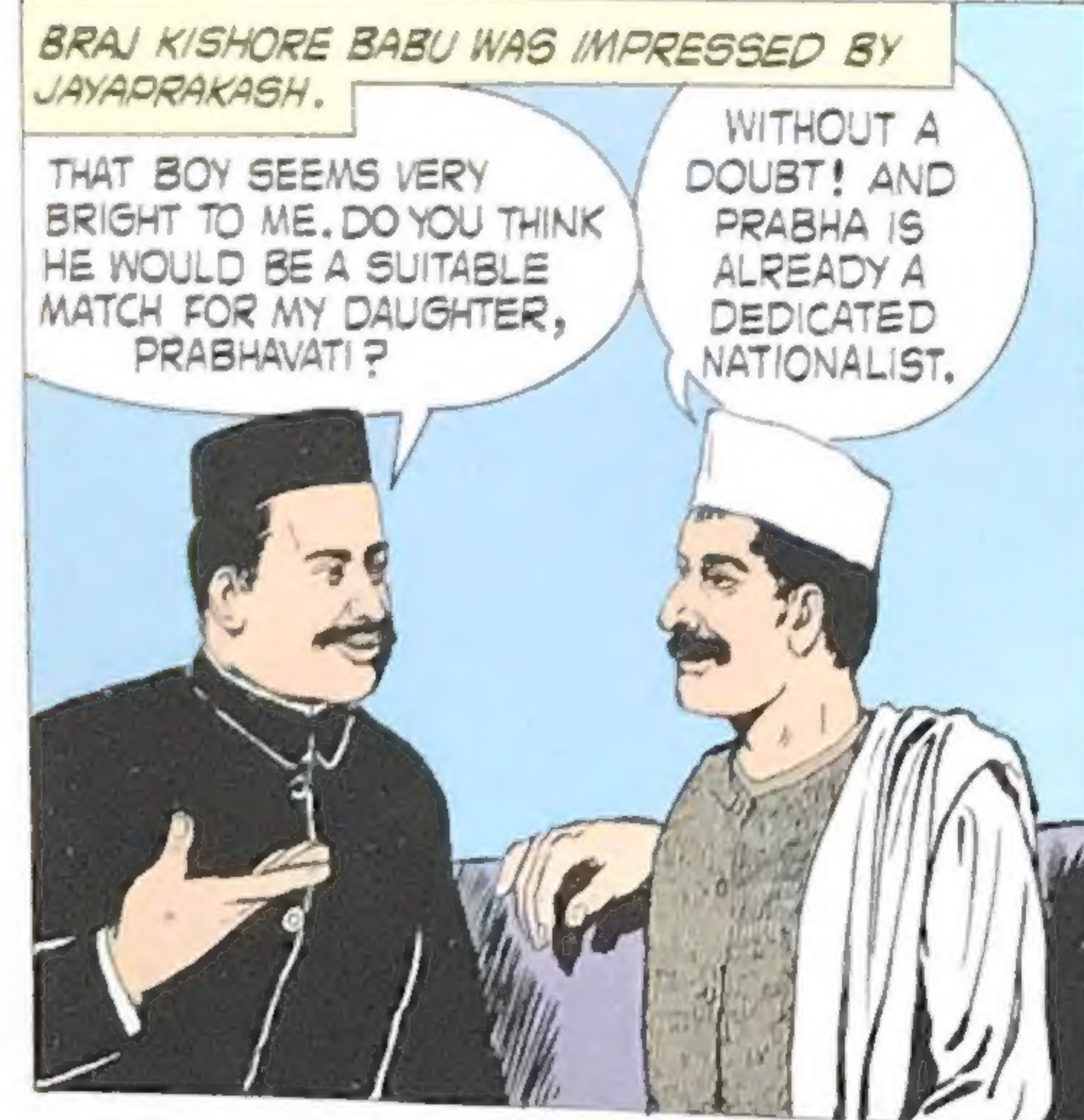
BUT HIS HEART WAS IN LITERATURE AND HIS FAITH IN THE GITA. DURING FREE PERIODS—



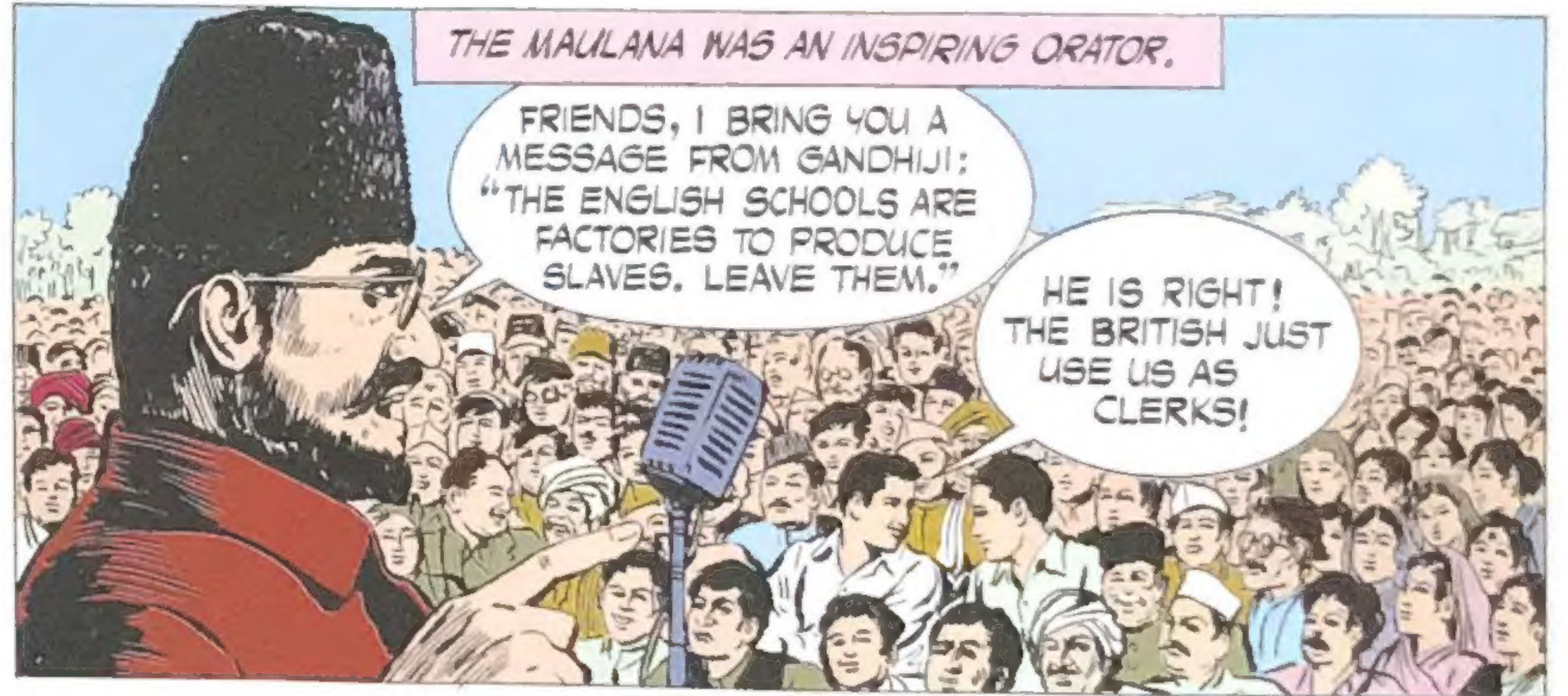
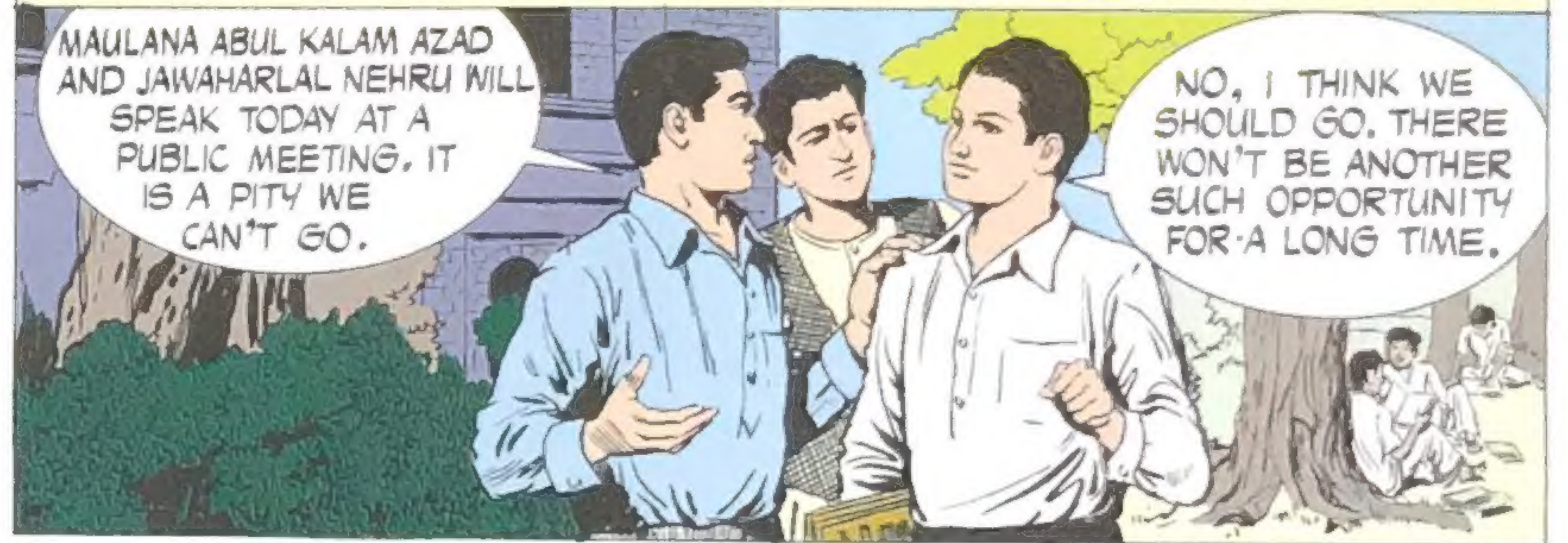
IT WAS DURING THIS TIME THAT THROUGH HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW, BRAJ BEHARI SAHAI, JAYAPRAKASH CAME IN CONTACT WITH RAJENDRA PRASAD AND BRAJ KISHORE BABU WHO WERE LEADING FIGURES IN PATNA.



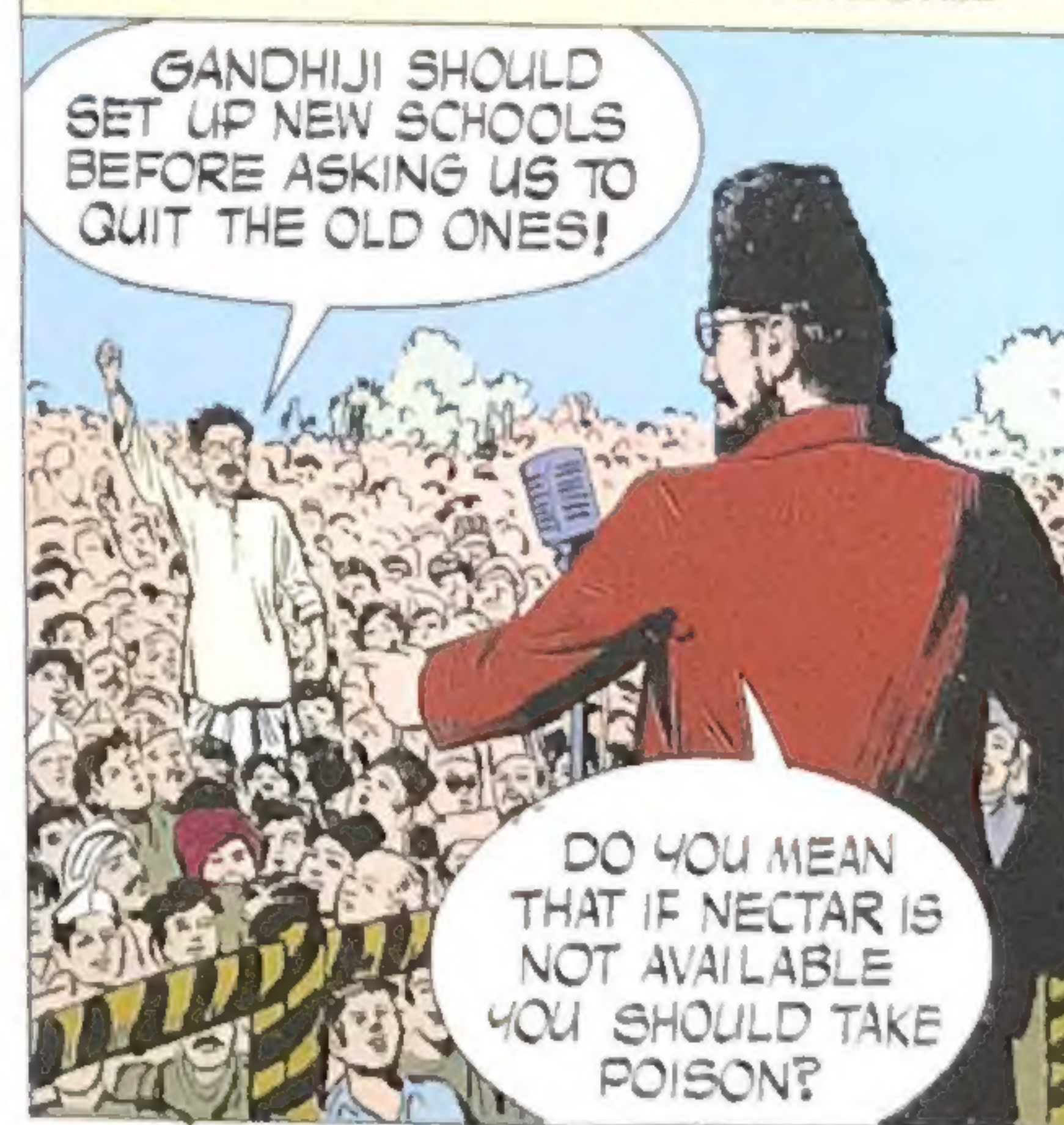
THE MARRIAGE WAS ARRANGED AND TOOK PLACE IN 1919. PRABHAVATI WAS FOURTEEN YEARS OLD AND JAYAPRAKASH WAS SEVENTEEN.



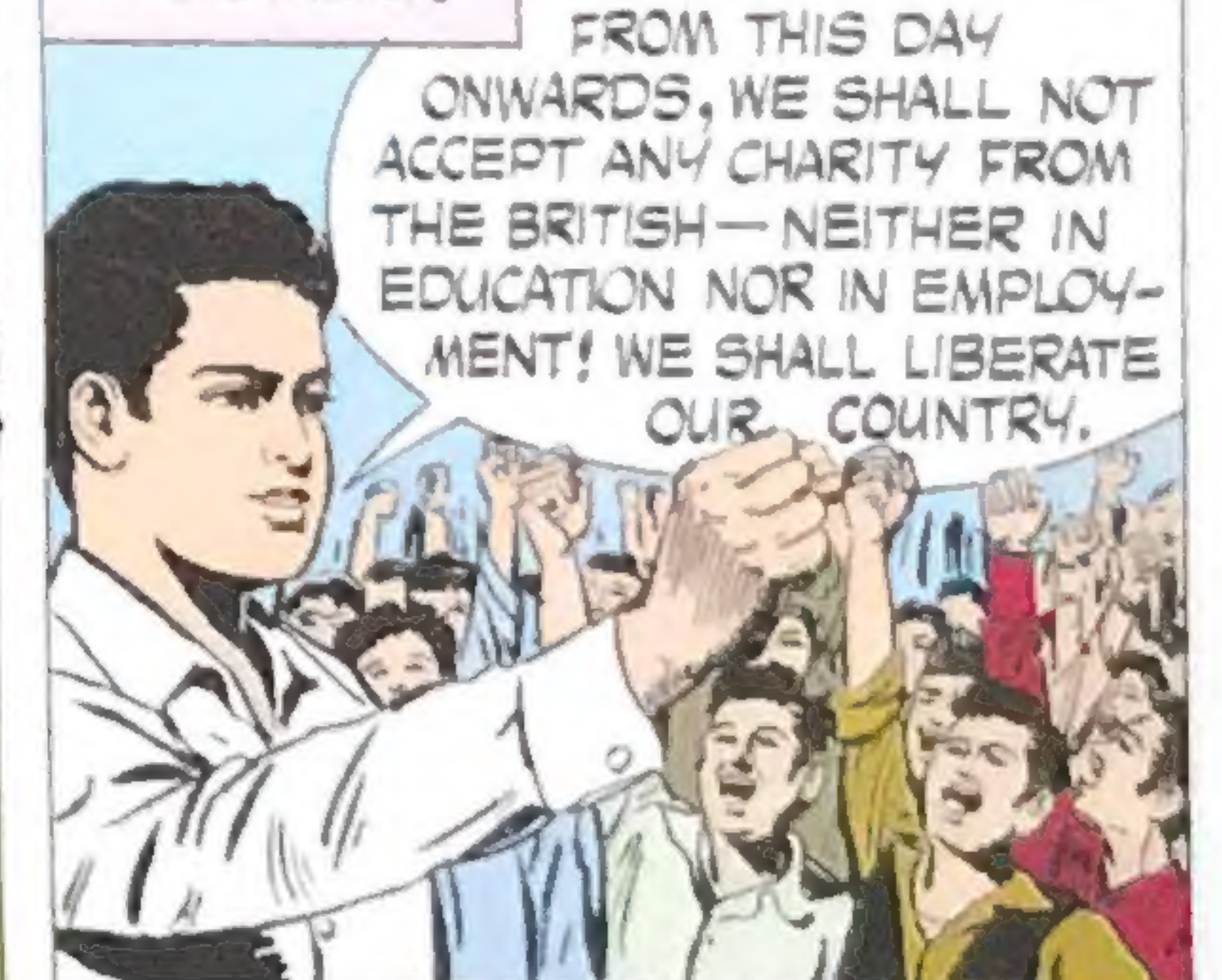
IN JANUARY 1921, JAYAPRAKASH WAS PREPARING FOR HIS FINAL EXAMINATION, WHEN—



SOMEONE IN THE AUDIENCE PROTESTED—



INSPIRED BY MAULANA AZAD'S EXHORTATIONS, JAYAPRAKASH AND HUNDREDS OF OTHER YOUNG MEN LEFT THE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES WHICH RECEIVED GRANTS FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.



IN THE SAME YEAR, JAYAPRAKASH PASSED THE INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION IN THE FIRST DIVISION FROM THE BIHAR VIDYAPEETH.

NOW YOU MUST CONTINUE YOUR STUDIES AT THE KASHI VISHVA-VIDYALAYA, SON.

BUT I CAN'T GO TO ANY INSTITUTION WHICH RECEIVES A GOVERNMENT GRANT!



IN THAT CASE, BRAJ KISHORE BABU FEELS THAT YOU SHOULD GO TO LONDON.

GO TO THE VERY COUNTRY WHICH HAS ENSLAVED US? FATHER, PLEASE DO NOT ASK ME TO GO THERE!



THAT NIGHT, JAYAPRAKASH REVEALED HIS THOUGHTS TO HIS WIFE.

PRABHA, I'VE GIVEN A LOT OF THOUGHT TO MY STUDIES. IN THE UNITED STATES, STUDENTS EARN WHILE THEY LEARN. I COULD GO THERE, BUT YOU....

YOU WILL NEVER FIND ME A HINDRANCE. GO AHEAD AND MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO GO THERE.

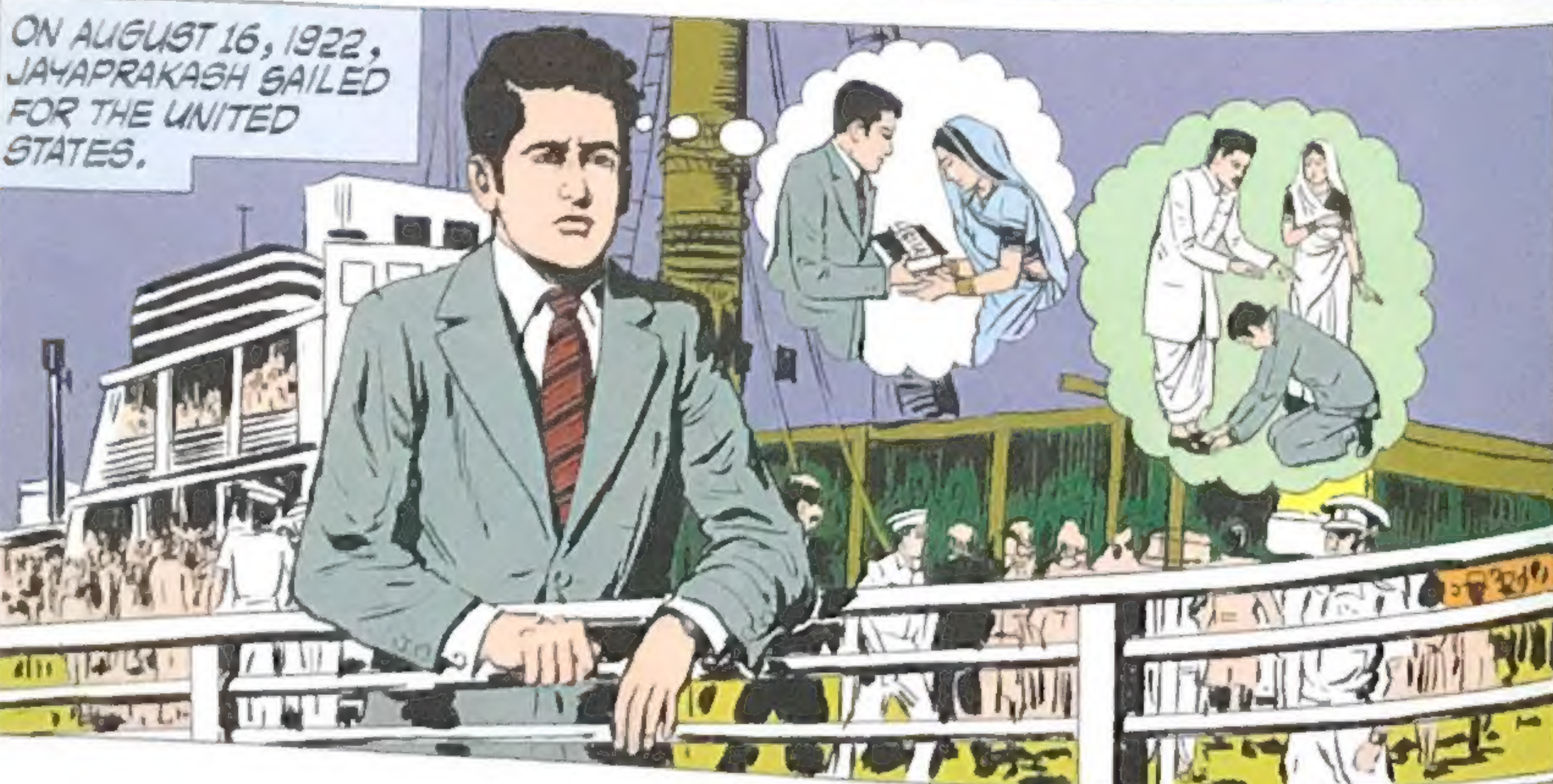


I WISH I COULD TAKE YOU WITH ME!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I WILL GO AND STAY WITH GANDHI AT THE SABARMATI ASHRAM.



ON AUGUST 16, 1922, JAYAPRAKASH SAILED FOR THE UNITED STATES.



IN THE UNITED STATES, JAYAPRAKASH PLANNED TO STUDY AT BERKELEY BUT WHEN HE WENT TO THE UNIVERSITY FOR ADMISSION—

YOU ARE TOO LATE. OUR SEMESTER HAS ALREADY BEGUN. THE NEXT ONE STARTS IN JANUARY.



HE WENT BACK TO THE NALANDA CLUB, THE INEXPENSIVE PLACE AT BERKELEY WHERE INDIANS LIVED.

DON'T LOSE HEART. YOU CAN EARN SOME MONEY TILL THE NEXT SEMESTER.

THAT'S RIGHT! MANY INDIANS WORK AT MARYSVILLE AS FOREMEN. WHY DON'T YOU GO THERE?



JAYAPRAKASH DECIDED TO GO TO MARYSVILLE.

WE HAVE HEARD A LOT ABOUT GANDHI'S AGITATION. WILL HE SUCCEED BY THESE METHODS IN GAINING FREEDOM?

THE AGITATION HAS BEEN CRUSHED FOR THE MOMENT BUT WE SHALL NOT GIVE UP EASILY.



SHER KHAN, THE OVERSEER, WAS DELIGHTED TO MEET AND HEAR THE NEWCOMER.

I SHOULD KISS YOUR FEET BECAUSE YOU HAVE JUST COME FROM INDIA!

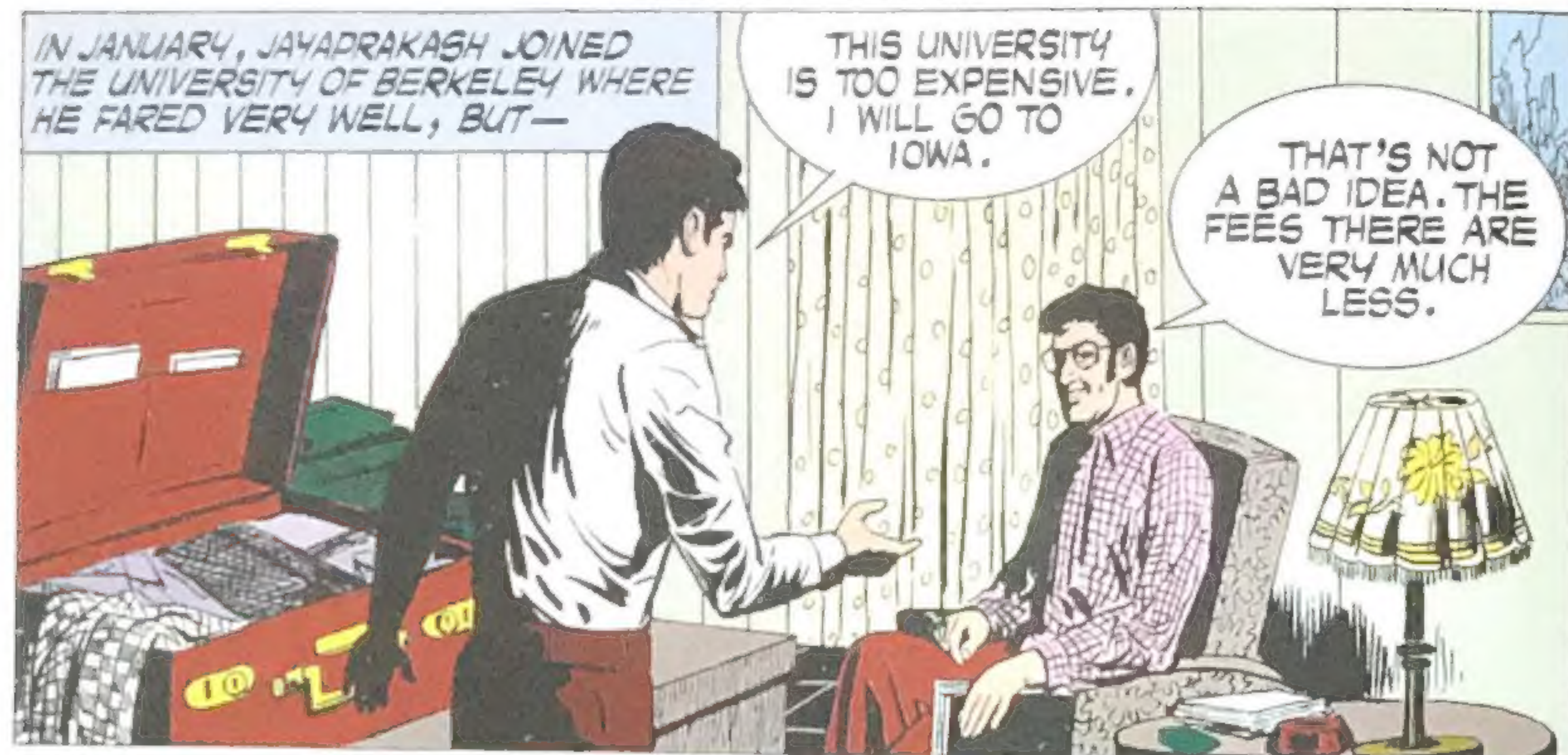


SHER KHAN DIRECTED HIM TO A VINEYARD. JAYAPRAKASH WORKED FOR NINE HOURS EVERY DAY. IT WAS HERE THAT HE LEARNT TO LOVE THE DOWN-TRODDEN AND THE POOR.

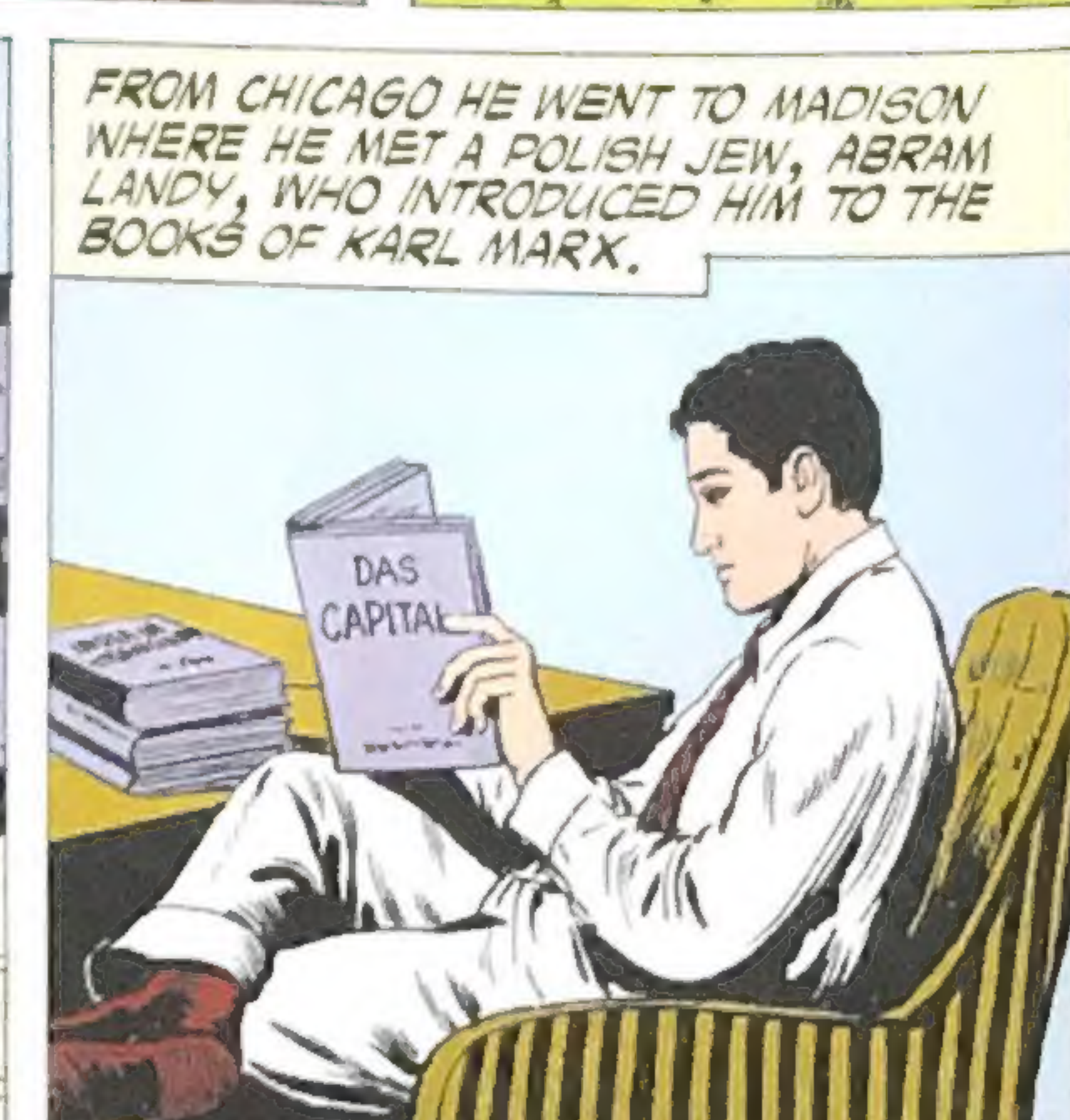
IN THE EVENING, YOU MUST COME AND EAT WITH US. WHILE YOU ARE HERE, WE WILL EAT ONLY VEGETARIAN FOOD.

SHER KHAN, I FEEL AS IF I'VE FOUND A LONG-LOST BROTHER IN YOU!





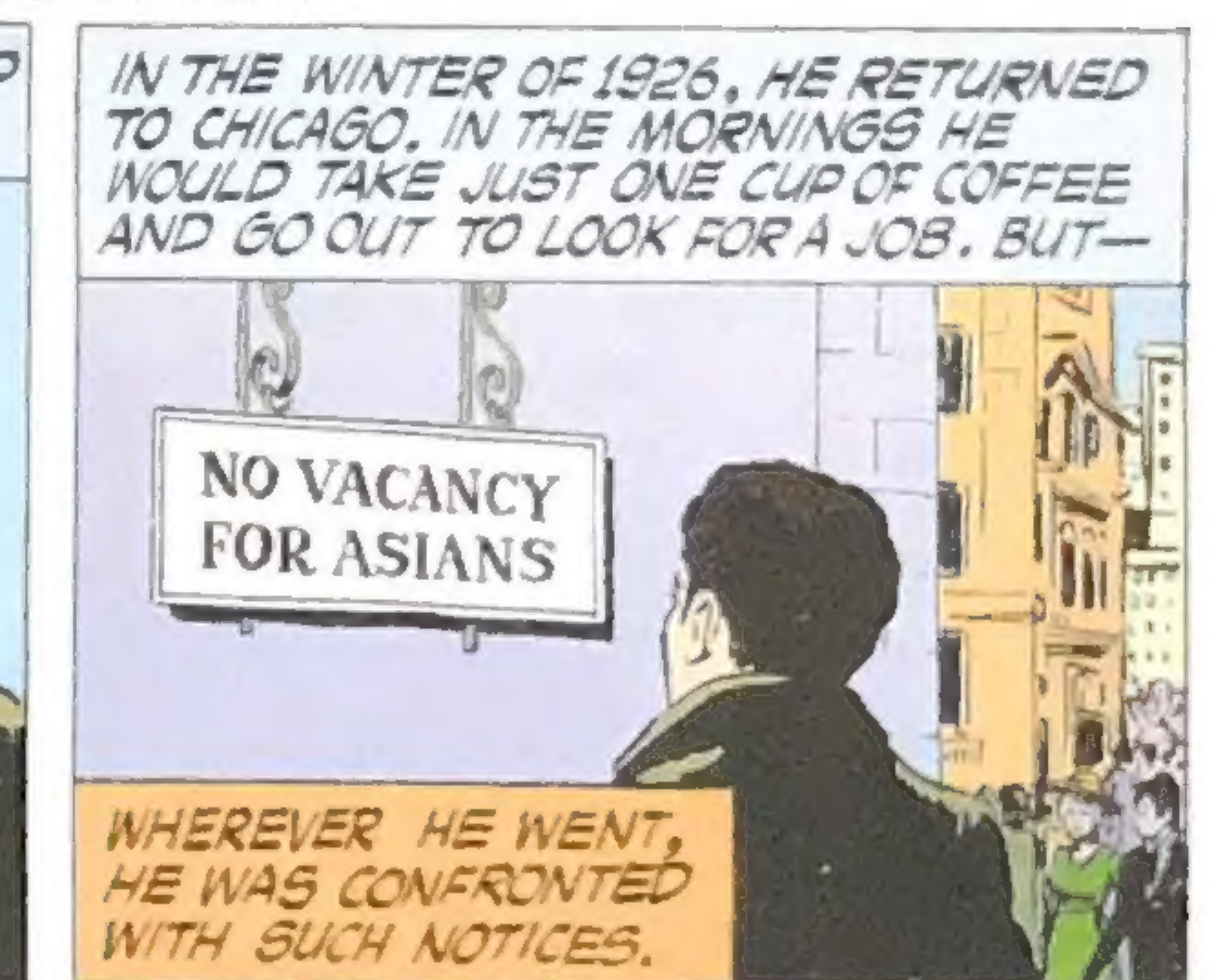
HE SPENT A YEAR AT IOWA, BUT EVEN THERE HE HAD TO WORK HARD TO EARN ENOUGH TO PAY HIS WAY THROUGH COLLEGE.



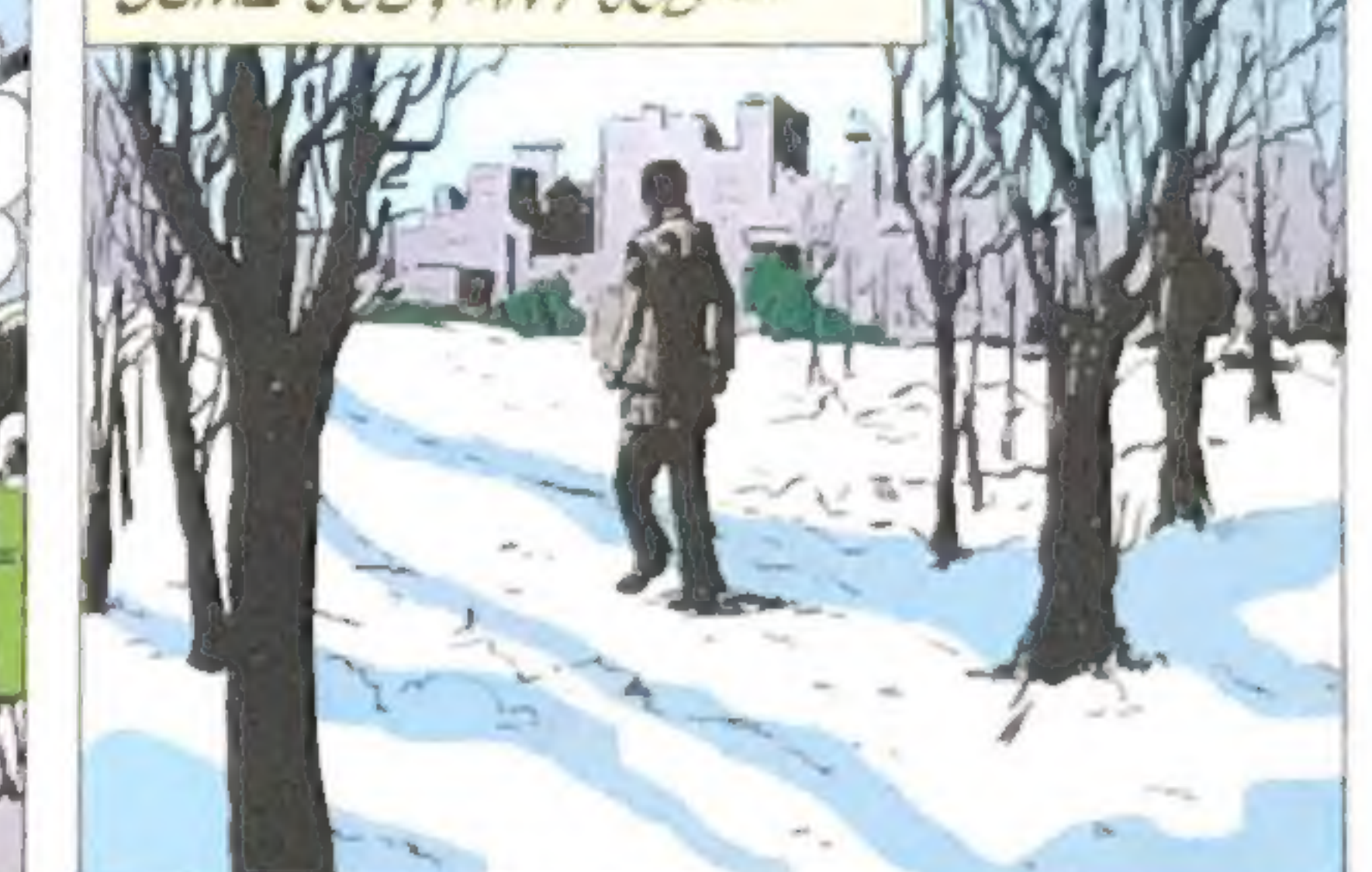
TO ADD TO HIS MISERY, JP DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH WARM CLOTHES.



INEVITABLY, JP FELL ILL AND HE WAS BED-RIDDEN FOR SIX MONTHS. HE INCURRED A LOT OF DEBTS AND FELL BEHIND IN HIS STUDIES.



HE TRUDGED FOR LONG MILES ON SNOW-COVERED ROADS LOOKING FOR SOME JOB, ANY JOB—



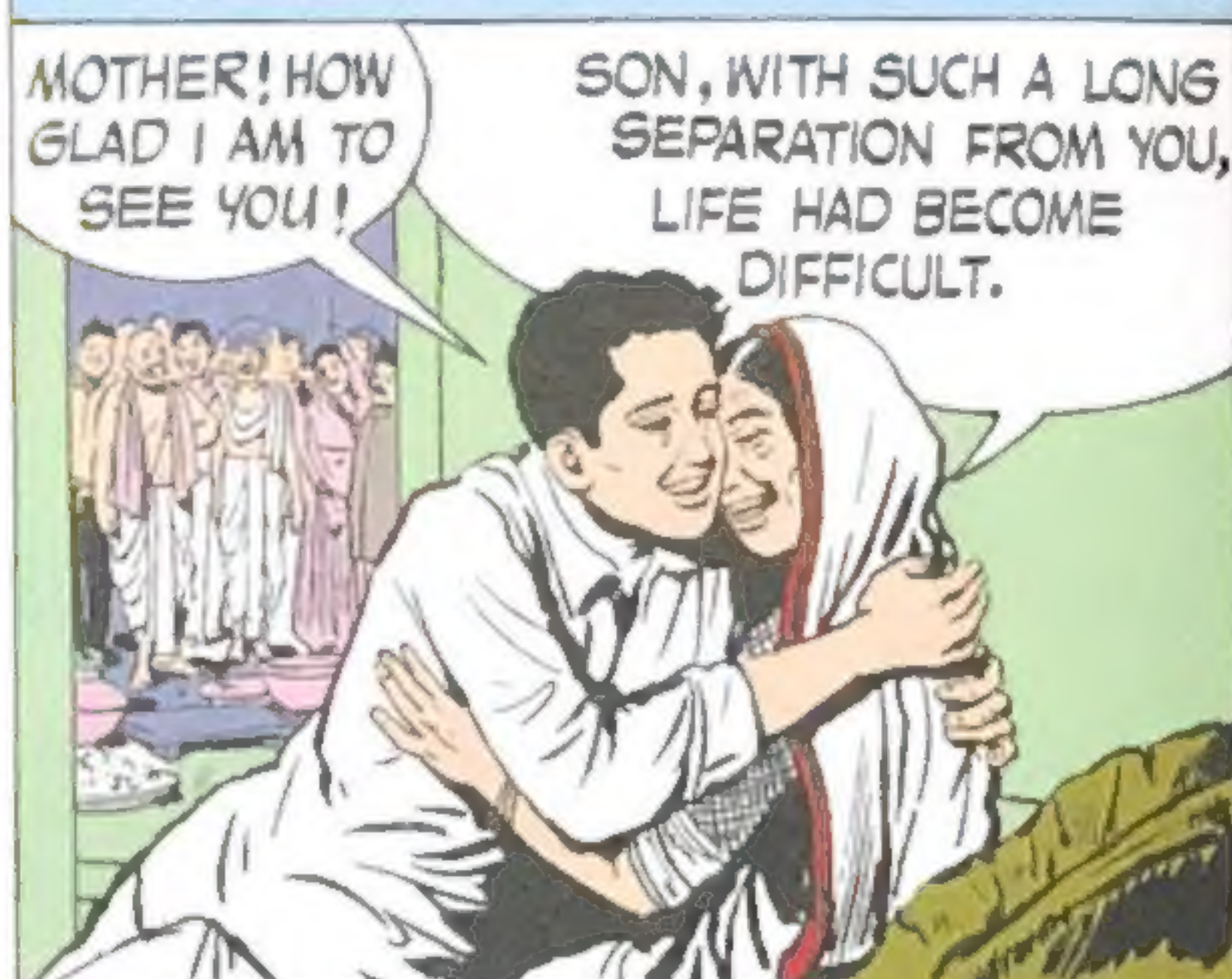
JAYAPRAKASH GAVE UP HIS PLANS TO GO TO THE SOVIET UNION. INSTEAD HE MOVED ON TO OHIO, WHERE HE OBTAINED HIS B.A. DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY AND ECONOMICS. HE THEN BEGAN STUDYING FOR HIS M.A., WHILE ALSO TEACHING AS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY.



HIS THESIS, "SOCIAL VARIATIONS", SUBMITTED FOR HIS MASTER'S DEGREE, WAS ADJUDGED THE BEST THAT YEAR. THEN HE DECIDED TO ENROL FOR THE Ph.D. DEGREE, BUT HE RECEIVED DISTURBING NEWS FROM HOME —



AFTER SEVEN YEARS ABROAD, JP RETURNED HOME ON NOVEMBER 23, 1929. HE WAS THEN TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS OLD.

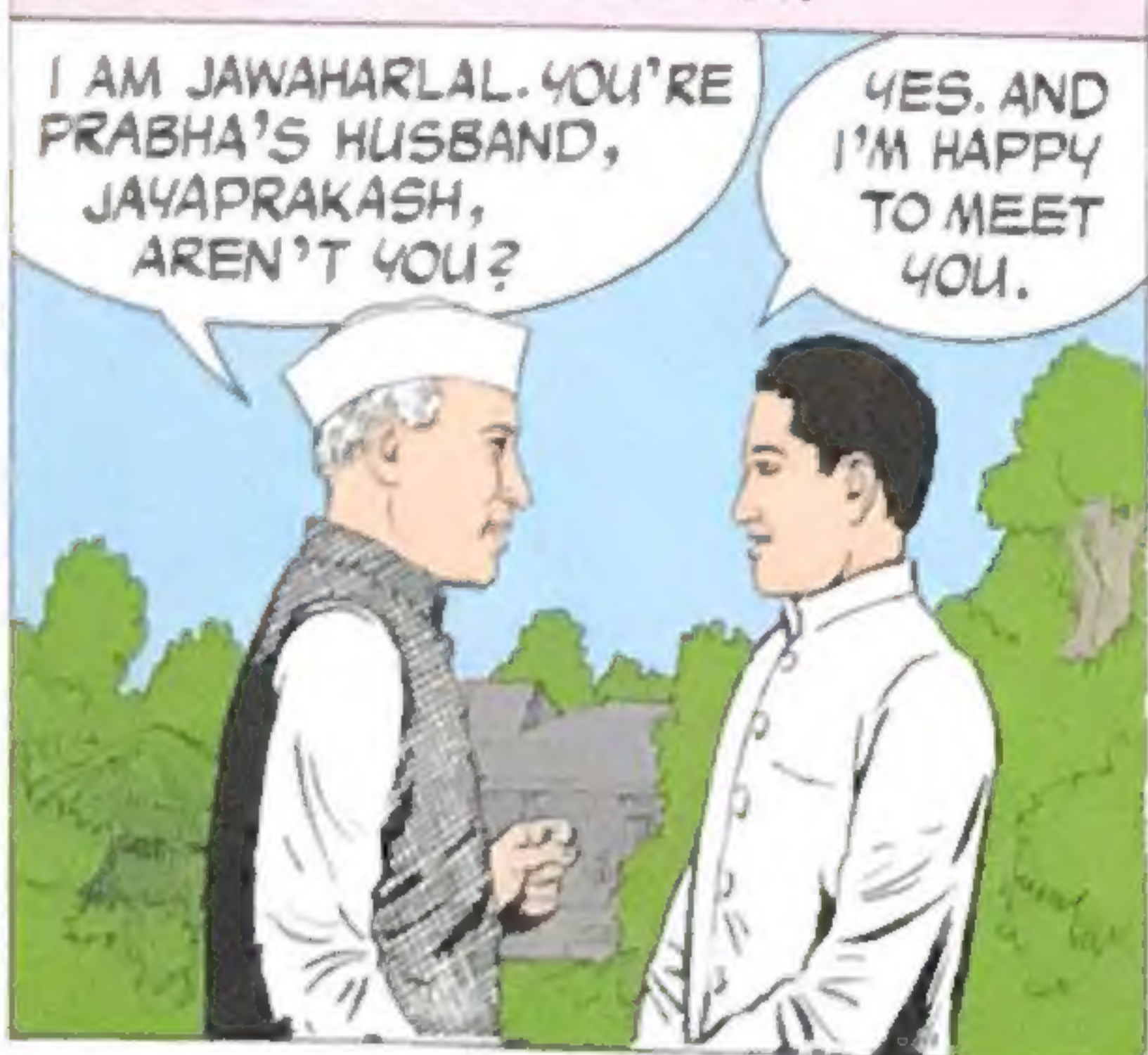


JP SPENT A FEW DAYS WITH HIS PARENTS AND THEN LEFT TO SEE PRABHAVATI. SHE WAS IN SRINAGAR WITH HER FATHER.



DURING THE SEVEN YEARS THAT JP WAS IN AMERICA, THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM IN INDIA HAD GAINED MOMENTUM UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GANDHI.

ON DECEMBER 29, 1929, JP AND PRABHA WENT TO WARDHA TO SEE GANDHI. THERE JP MET JAWAHARLAL NEHRU.



WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO NEXT?



WHY DON'T YOU COME TO ALLAHABAD INSTEAD AND TAKE CHARGE OF THE LABOUR RESEARCH BUREAU OF THE CONGRESS?



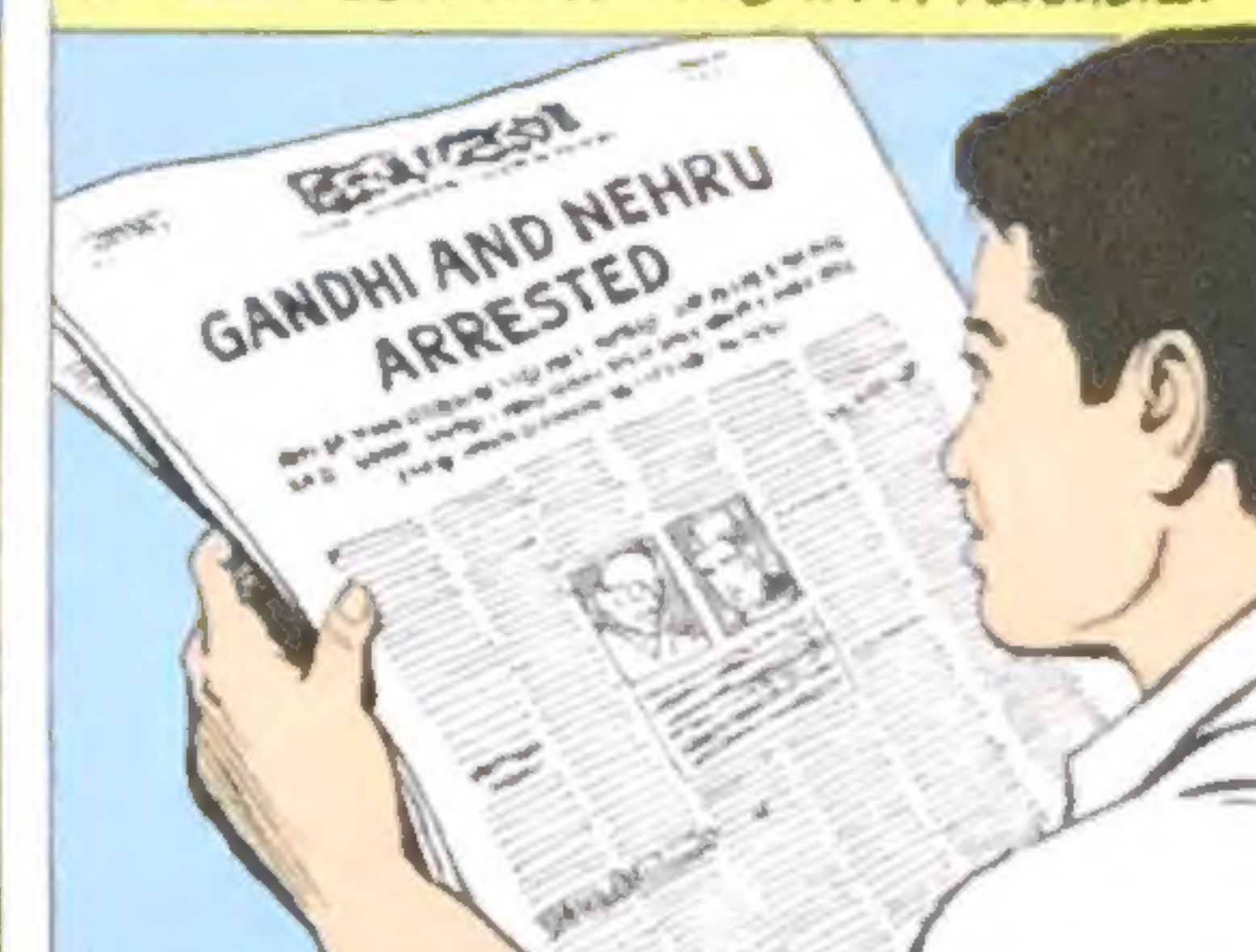
JAYAPRAKASH ACCEPTED THE OFFER AND, EARLY IN 1930, HE REACHED ALLAHABAD. PRABHAVATI JOINED HIM THERE.



PRABHAVATI AND KAMALA NEHRU BECAME GOOD FRIENDS, TOO. JP WAS HAPPY AT HOME AS WELL AS AT WORK, WHEN—



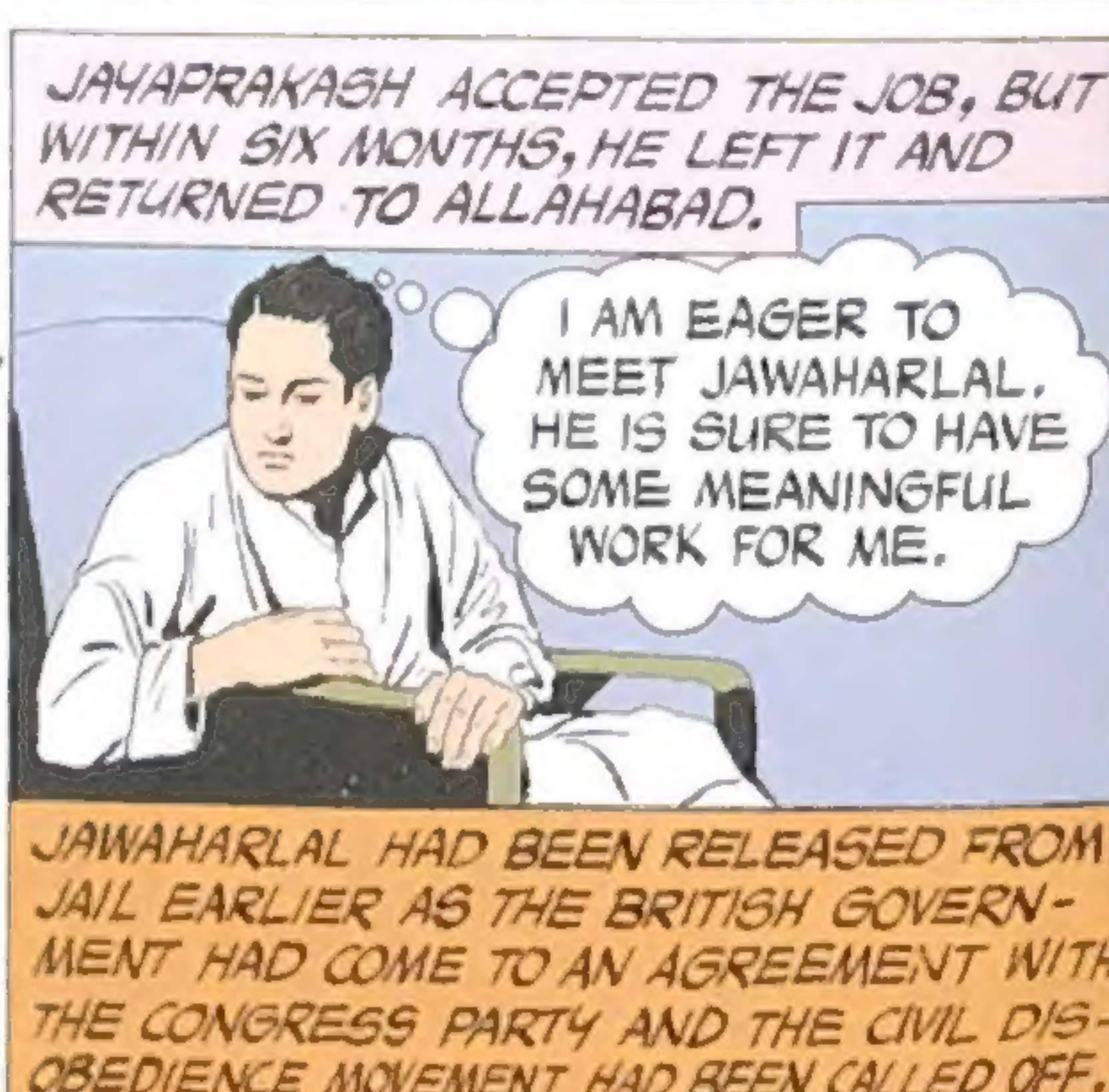
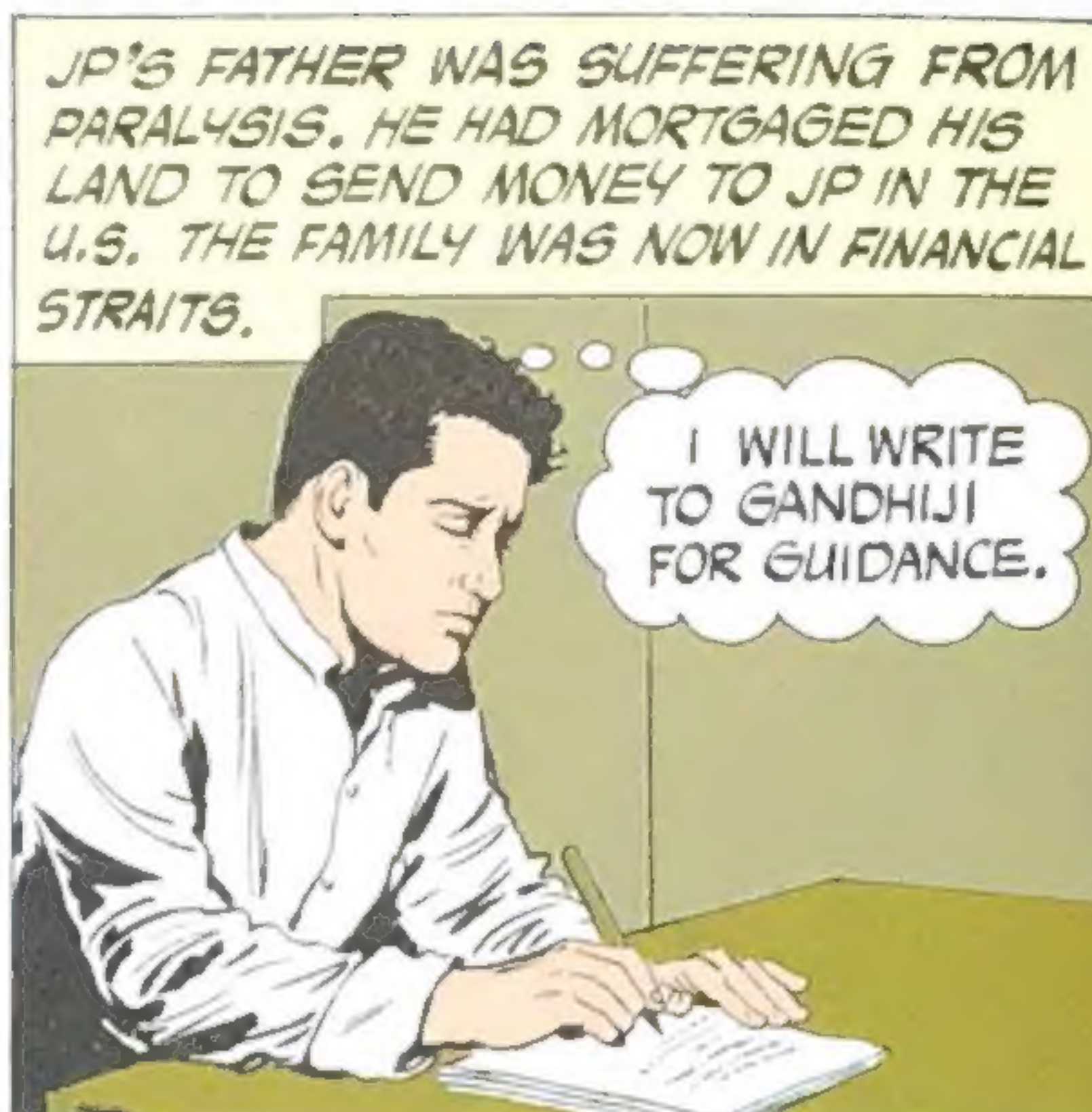
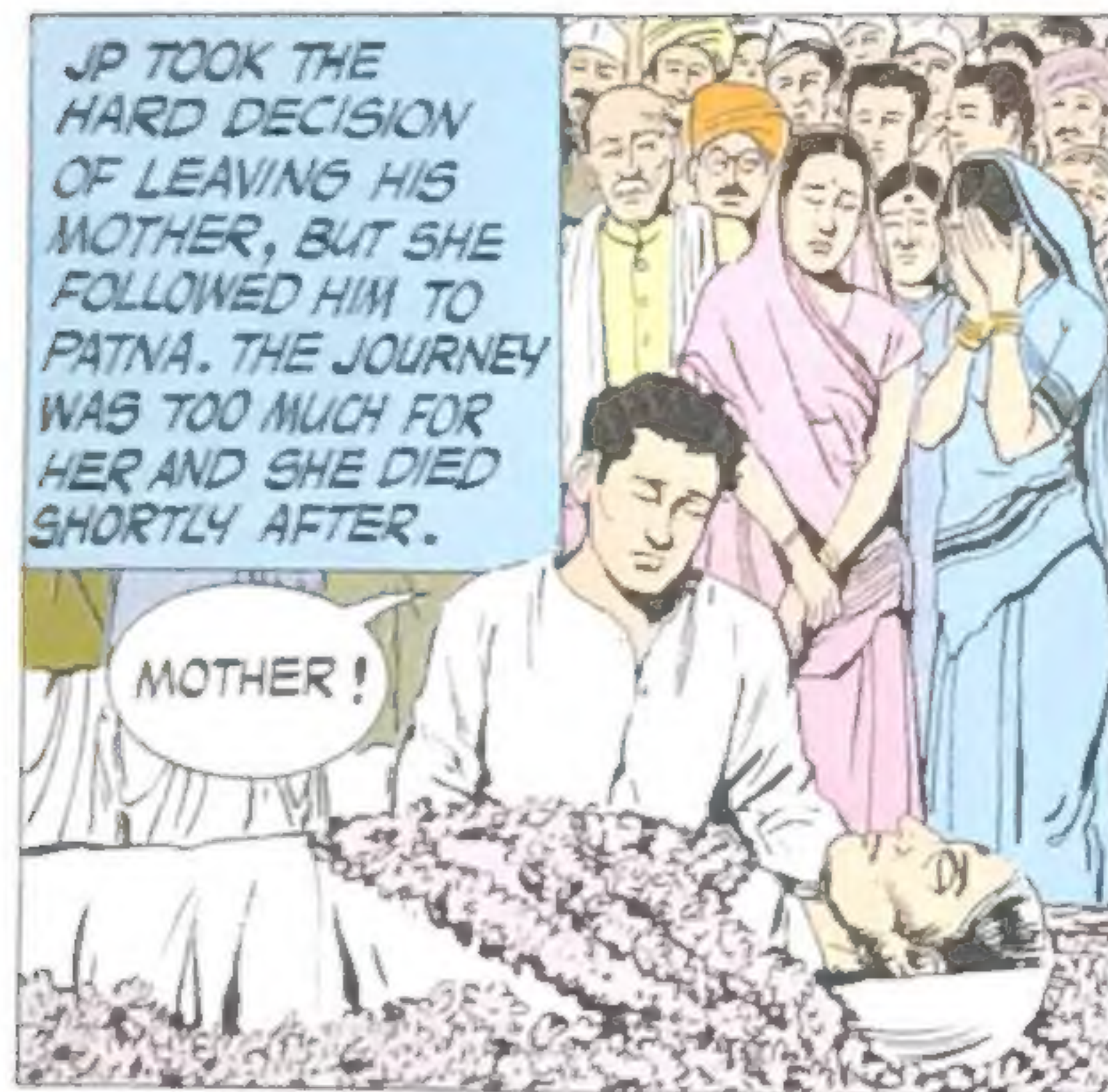
IN APRIL 1930, GANDHI LAUNCHED THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT. THE WHOLE COUNTRY WAS IN A TURMOIL.



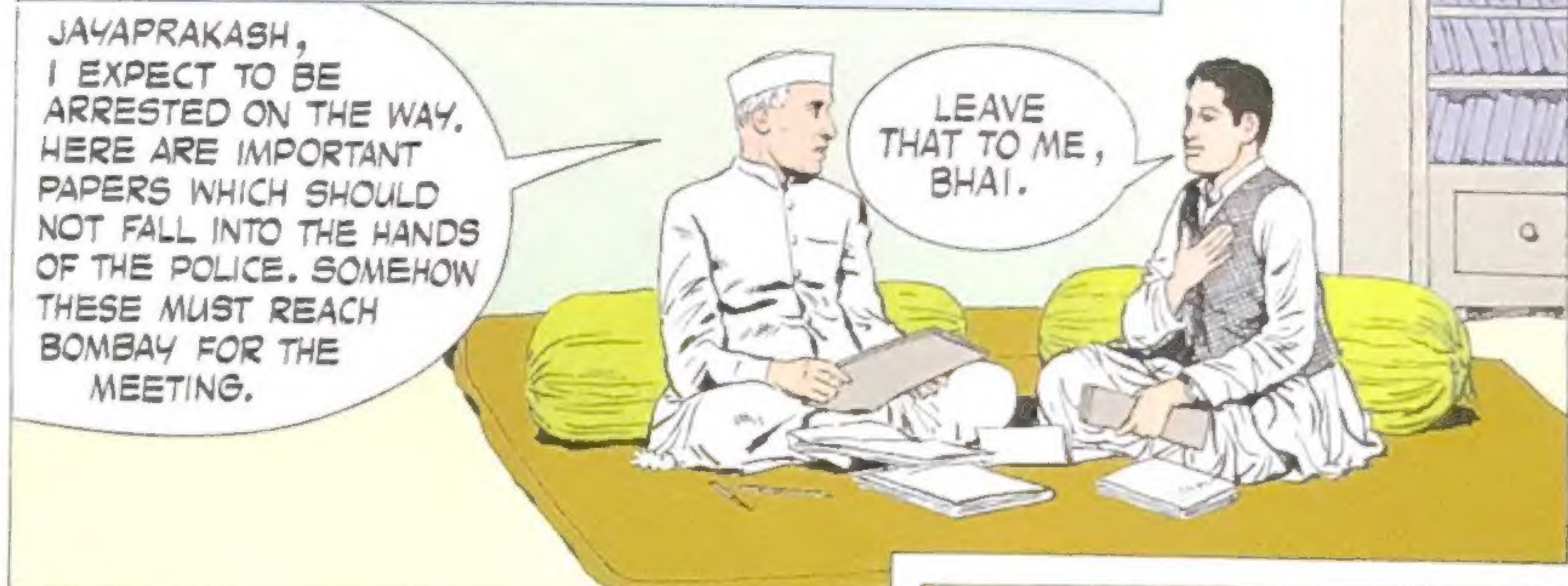
AT THIS CRUCIAL MOMENT, JAYAPRAKASH HAD TO STAY IN HIS VILLAGE BECAUSE OF HIS AILING MOTHER.



* BROTHER



A YEAR LATER, THE CONGRESS RENEWED THE MOVEMENT FOLLOWING THE BREAK-DOWN OF TALKS WITH THE GOVERNMENT. JAWAHARLAL HAD TO LEAVE FOR BOMBAY TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE.



NEHRU'S FEARS WERE JUSTIFIED; HE WAS ARRESTED. MEANWHILE JAYAPRAKASH PREPARED TO GO TO BOMBAY IN DISGUISE.



HE ELUDED THE POLICE AND LANDED IN BOMBAY. HE WENT STRAIGHT TO MRS. SARJINI NAIDU, ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS, AND GAVE HER THE PAPERS.



IN BOMBAY, JAYAPRAKASH DID A LOT OF UNDERGROUND WORK. AS SENIOR CONGRESS LEADERS WERE ARRESTED ONE AFTER ANOTHER, HE TOOK OVER MORE AND MORE ORGANISATIONAL WORK. BUT AT LAST ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1932, HE, TOO, WAS ARRESTED.

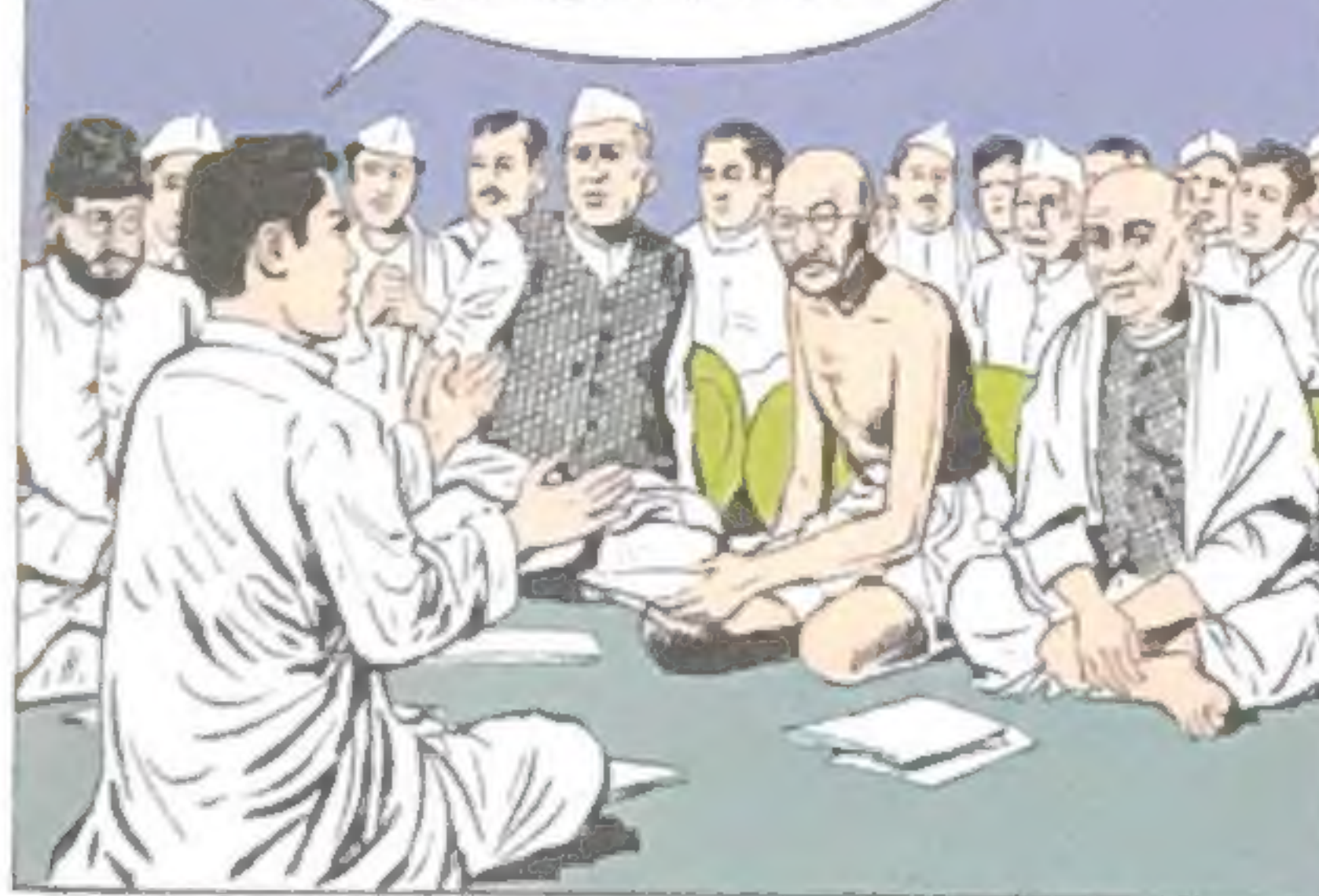


IN JAIL, HE MET ASOKA MEHTA, MINOO MASANI, ACHYUT PATWARDHAN, N. G. GORAY AND OTHERS, WITH WHOM HE HAD LONG DISCUSSIONS. AFTER HIS RELEASE, HE FORMED THE SOCIALIST CONGRESS WITHIN THE CONGRESS PARTY.



UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT 1935, PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY WAS GRANTED, BUT JP WAS NOT HAPPY.

I FEEL WE MUST INSIST ON COMPLETE SEPARATION FROM THE BRITISH EMPIRE.



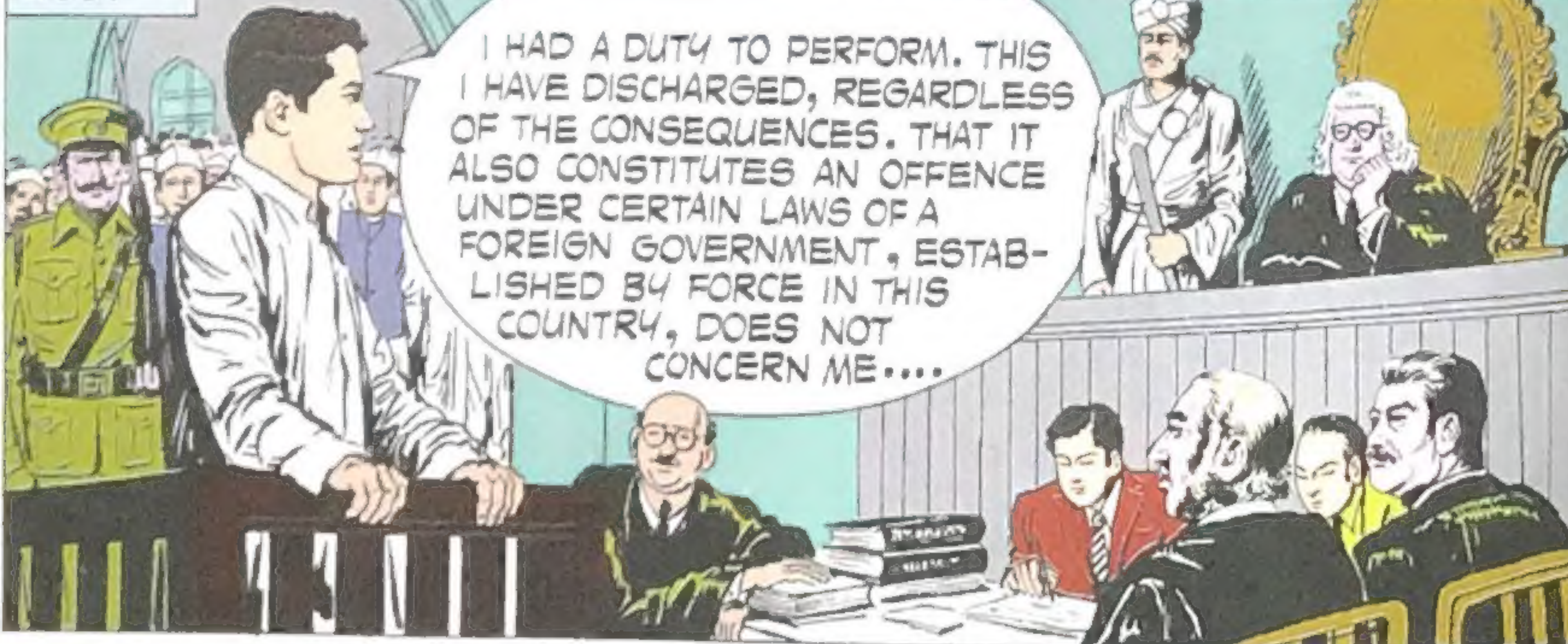
WHEN THE SECOND WORLD WAR BROKE OUT, JP DID NOT WANT INDIA INVOLVED IN IT. HE LED A STRIKE OF THE WORKERS OF AN ARMAMENT FACTORY.

WE WILL NOT BE A PARTY TO THIS WAR, FOR WE REGARD GERMAN NAZISM AND BRITISH IMPERIALISM AS EVIL AND BOTH AS OUR ENEMIES.



JP WAS ARRESTED FOR HIS ANTI-WAR ACTIVITIES, BUT HE DEFENDED HIMSELF IN THE DOCK—

I HAD A DUTY TO PERFORM. THIS I HAVE DISCHARGED, REGARDLESS OF THE CONSEQUENCES. THAT IT ALSO CONSTITUTES AN OFFENCE UNDER CERTAIN LAWS OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT, ESTABLISHED BY FORCE IN THIS COUNTRY, DOES NOT CONCERN ME....



GANDHI STRONGLY CRITICISED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ARRESTING JAYAPRAKASH. IN HIS PAPER, HARIJAN, HE WROTE —

SHRI JAYAPRAKASH HAS FORSAKEN ALL FOR THE SAKE OF THE DELIVERANCE OF HIS COUNTRY.... HIS CAPACITY FOR SUFFERING IS NOT EXCELLED. IS THIS ARREST A PRE-ARRANGED PLAN...?

JP WAS SENTENCED AND IMPRISONED. WHILE SERVING HIS TERM AT HAZARIBAGH JAIL, HE LEARNT THAT THE CONGRESS HAD OFFERED TO CO-OPERATE IN THE WAR IN RETURN FOR A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW DELHI.

NO, THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE AGREED. SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO ORGANISE A MASS STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM.



SOON AFTER HIS RELEASE, JAYAPRAKASH LEFT FOR BOMBAY TO ORGANISE AN UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT, ONLY TO BE ARRESTED ON ARRIVAL. HE WAS SENT TO A JAIL IN DEOLI, IN RAJPUTANA.*

I MUST GET IN TOUCH WITH MY FRIENDS OUTSIDE. PRABHA WILL HELP ME.



LATER, WHEN HIS WIFE VISITED HIM IN JAIL —

HAVALDAR, I NEED A PAIR OF SLIPPERS. MAY I GIVE MY WIFE THIS SHEET OF PAPER WITH AN OUTLINE OF MY FOOT ON IT?

ALL RIGHT.



WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR HAND?



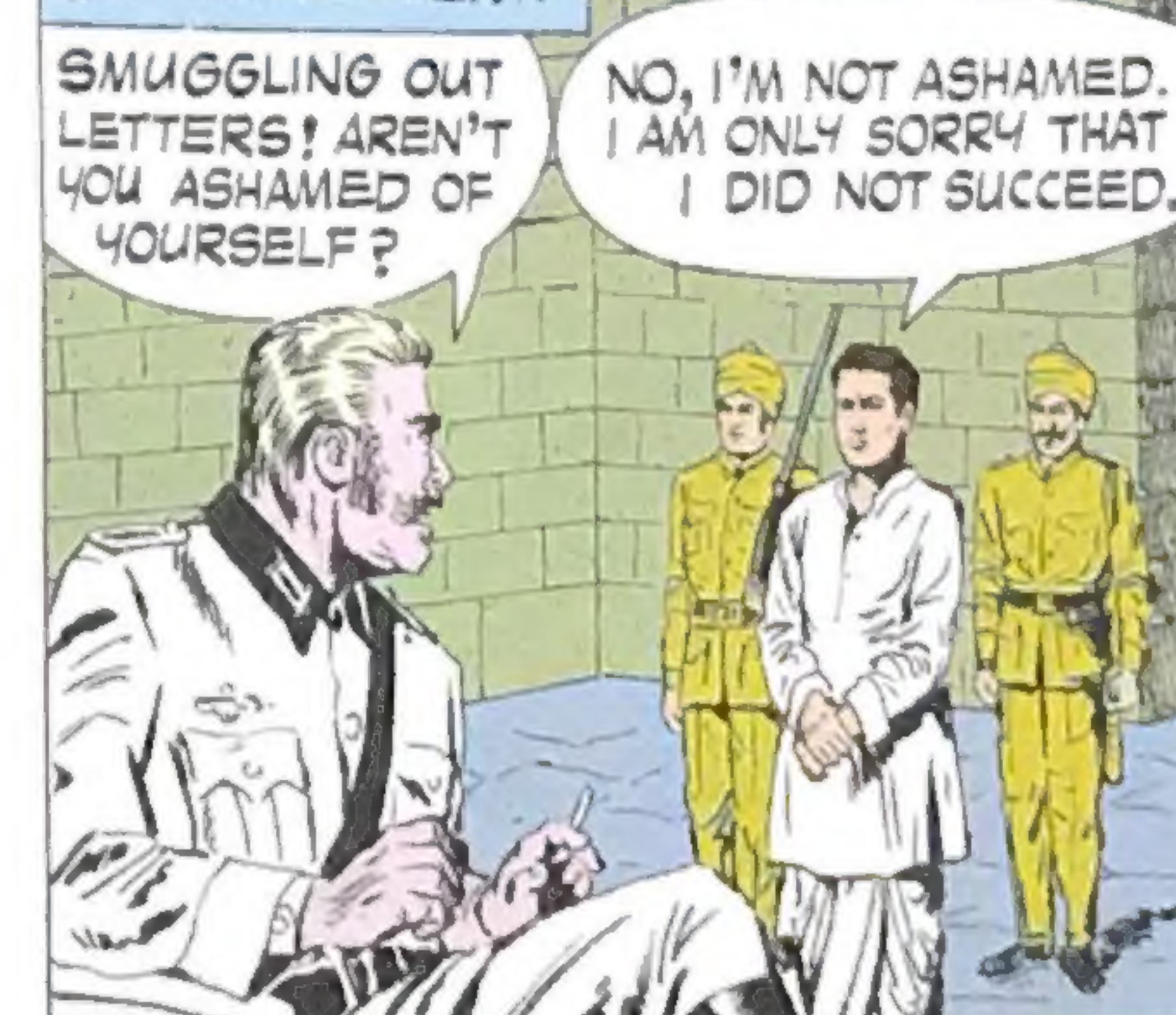
A PACKET OF LETTERS!



JAYAPRAKASH WAS TAKEN TO THE JAIL SUPERINTENDENT.

SMUGGLING OUT LETTERS! AREN'T YOU ASHAMED OF YOURSELF?

NO, I'M NOT ASHAMED. I AM ONLY SORRY THAT I DID NOT SUCCEED.



THE NEXT DAY, THE COUNTRY LEARNT OF THIS INCIDENT. THE GOVERNMENT ISSUED A LONG COMMUNIQUE.

PLANS TO CONTACT TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS... WERE SEIZED FROM MR. JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN... WHEN HE ATTEMPTED TO PASS THEM OUT OF JAIL THROUGH HIS WIFE....



LATER, JP WAS TRANSFERRED TO HAZARIBAGH JAIL. NEW PRISONERS KEPT POURING IN, BRINGING NEWS ABOUT THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE. — GANDHIJI HAS DEMANDED THAT THE BRITISH QUIT INDIA. THE GOVERNMENT HAS LET LOOSE A REGIMEN OF TERROR!

JP EXPLODED.

WHY ARE WE HERE! WE SHOULD BE RIGHT AT THE CENTRE OF IT ALL! WE SHOULD BE TAKING PART IN THE REVOLT!

JP WORKED OUT A PLAN OF ESCAPE. ON THE NIGHT OF DIWALI IN NOVEMBER 1942, AS THE PRISONERS CELEBRATED ...

...JP AND FIVE OTHERS WAITED FOR AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT IN A DARK CORNER.

THE SENTRY!

WHEN THE SENTRY HAD PASSED, THEY QUICKLY GOT TO WORK —

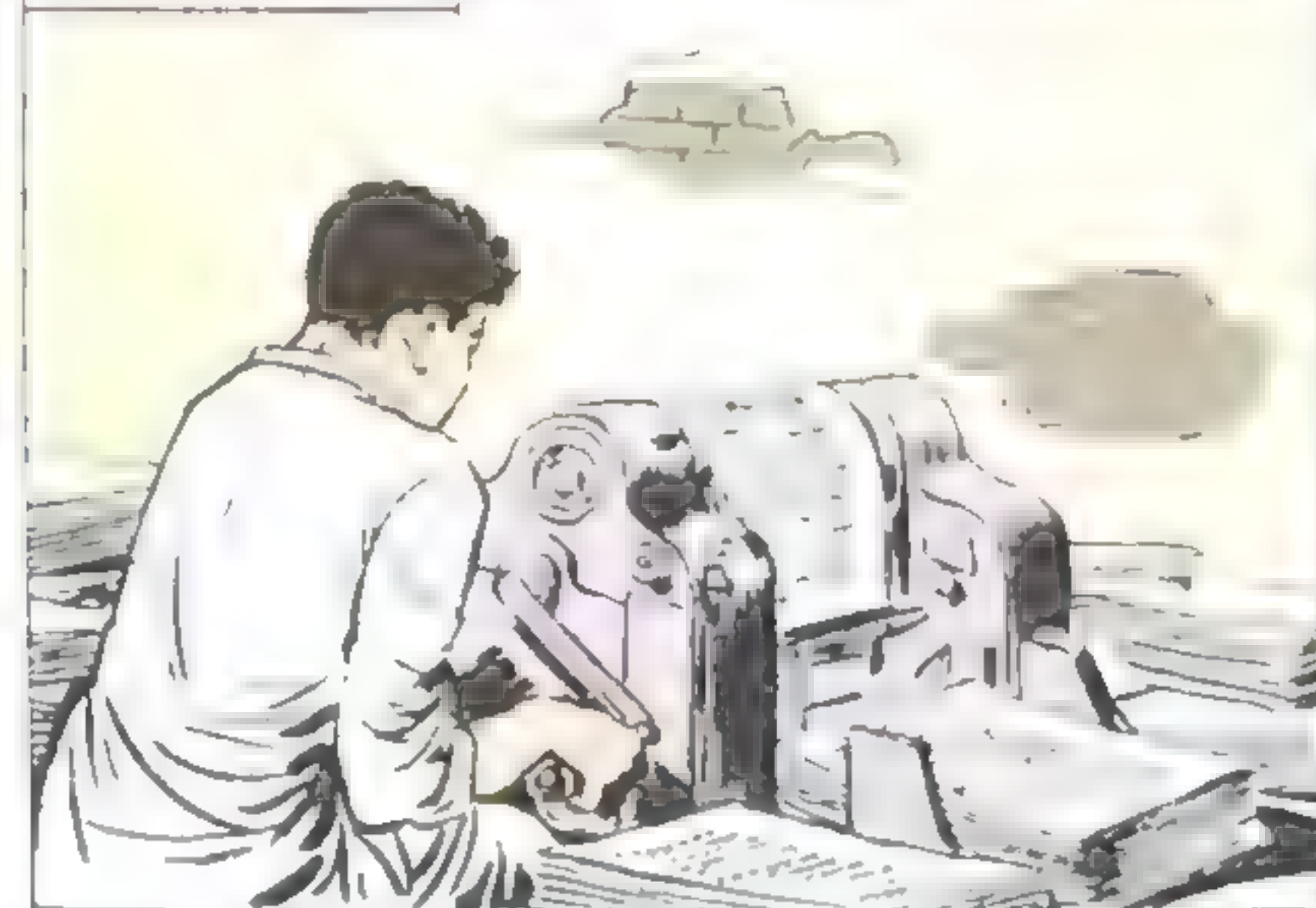
HURRY!

IN A FEW MINUTES THEY HAD CLIMBED OVER AND WERE FREE!

OH, I LEFT THE PACKAGE WITH THE EXTRA CLOTHING AND MONEY BEHIND!

NEVER MIND! THE MAIN THING IS TO GET AWAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

JP TOURED THE COUNTRY IN DISGUISE. HE SENT PRINTED AND CYCLOSTYLED LETTERS TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS ALL OVER INDIA.



SOME OF THESE LETTERS FOUND THEIR WAY TO AN AMERICAN MILITARY INSTALLATION IN INDIA.



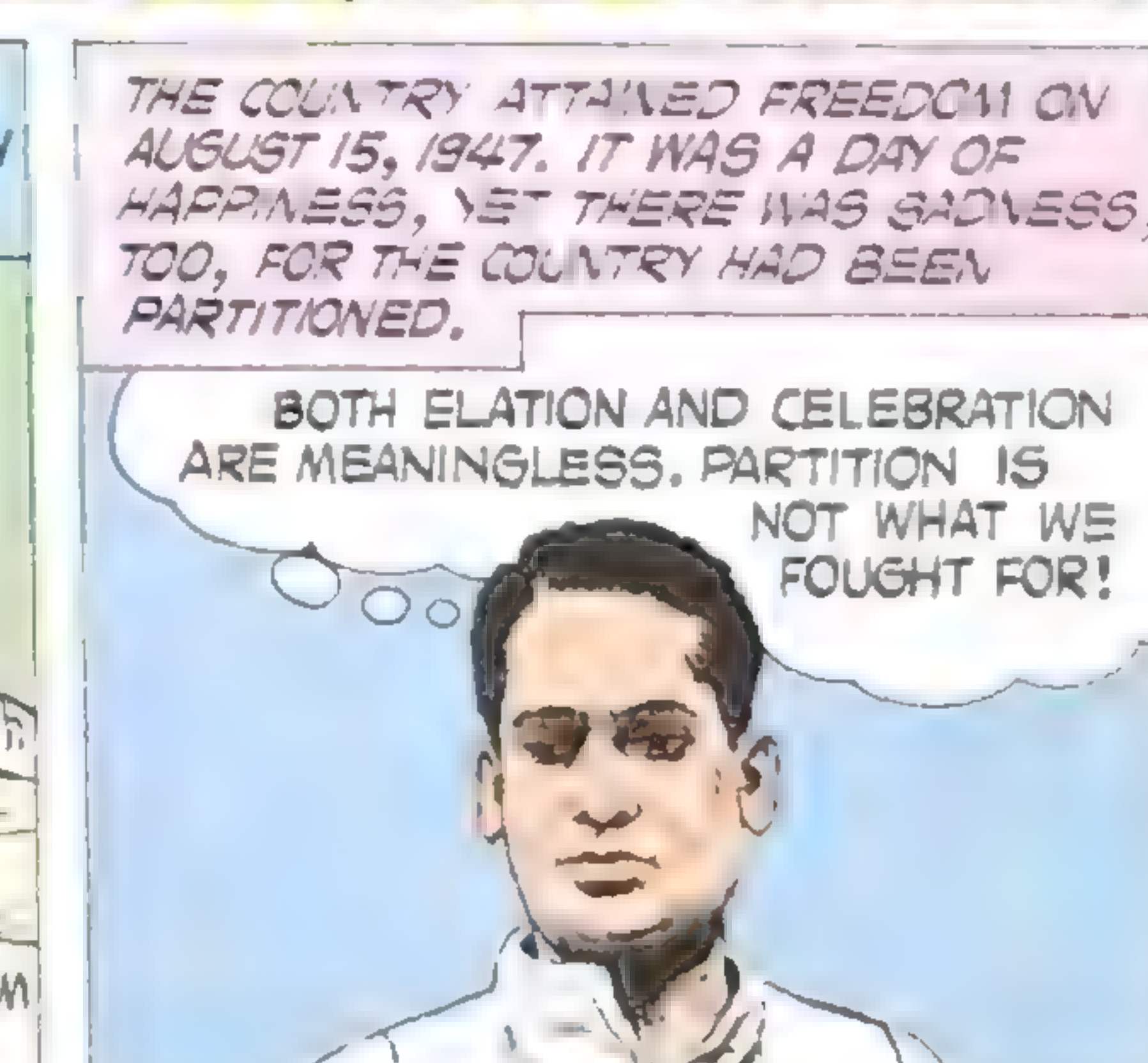
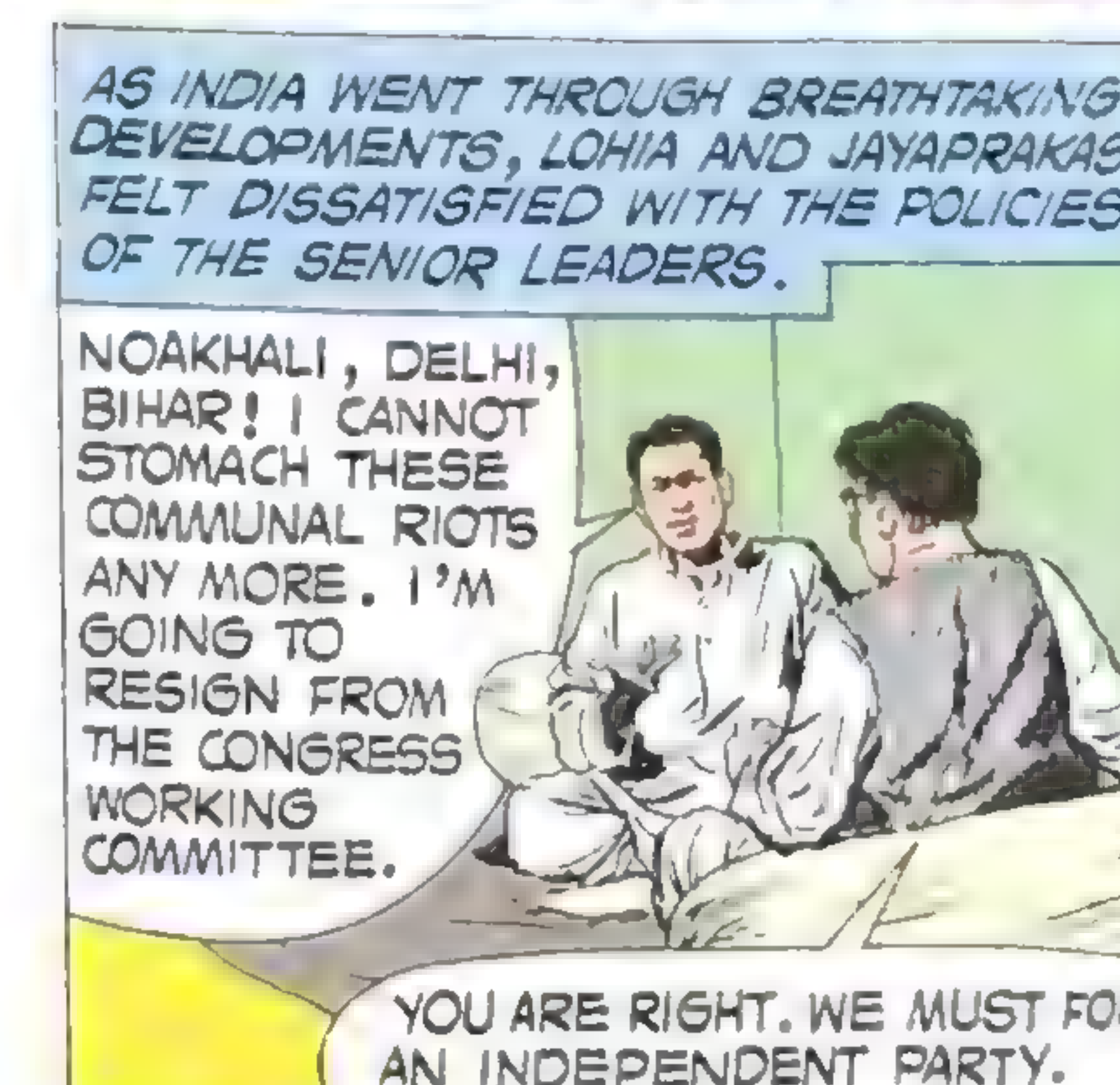
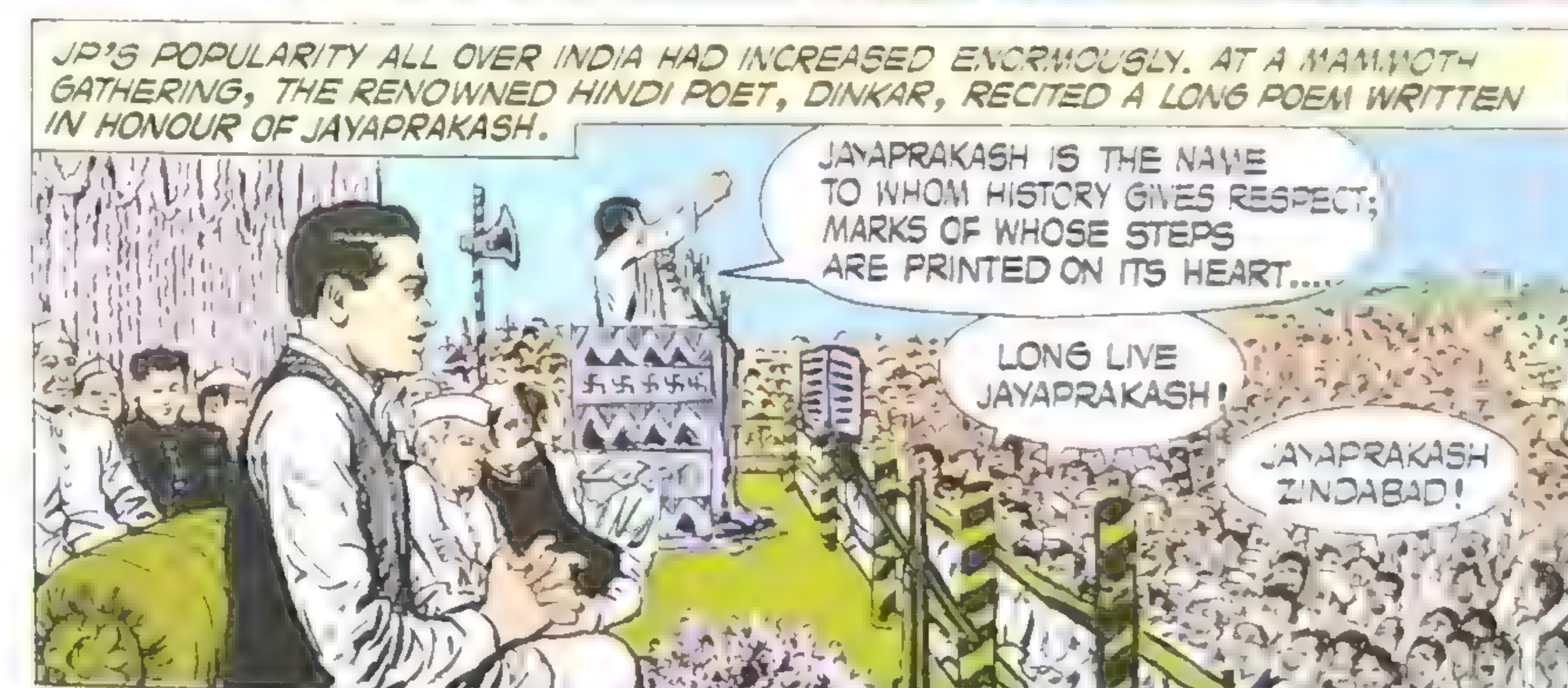
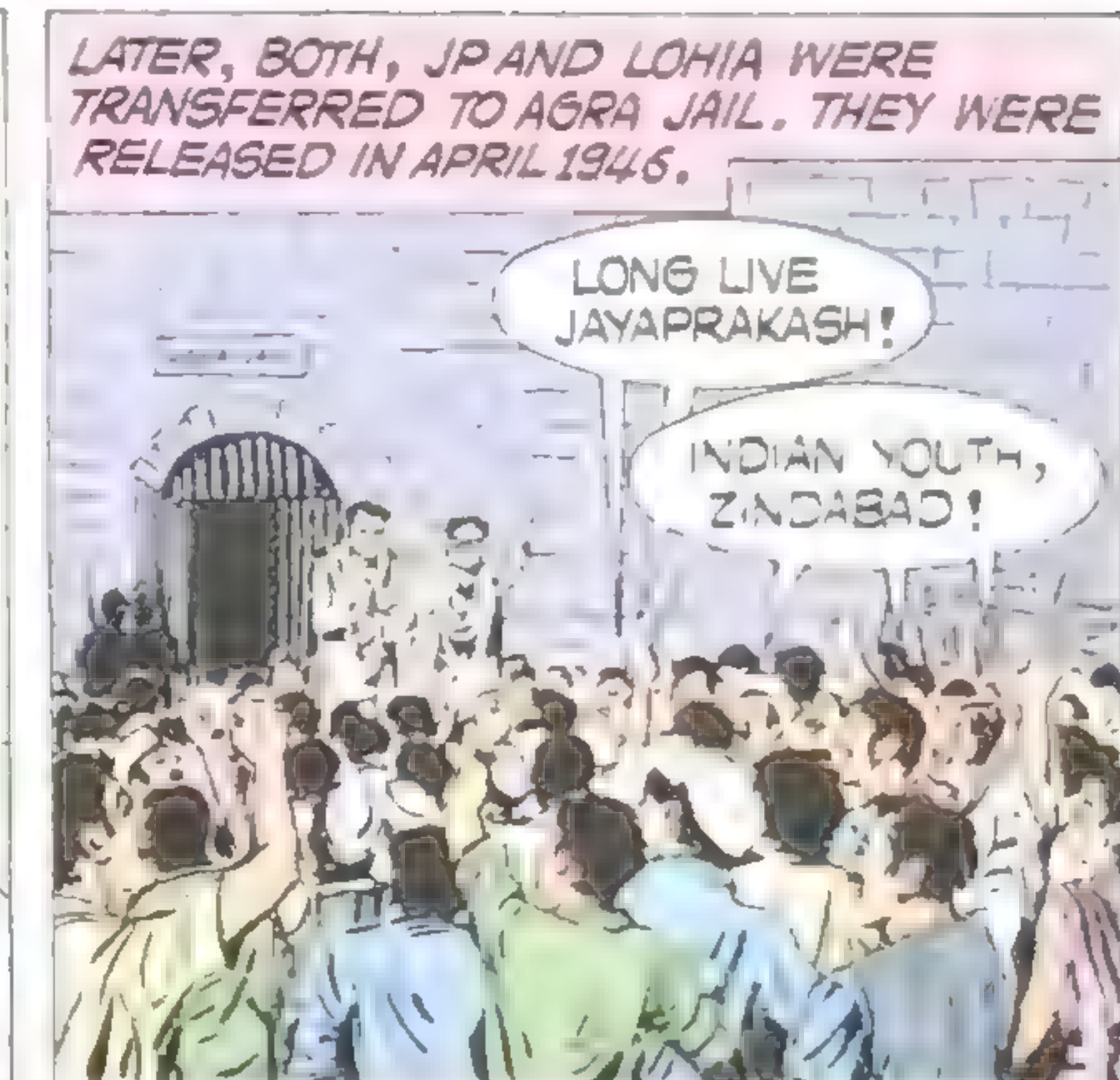
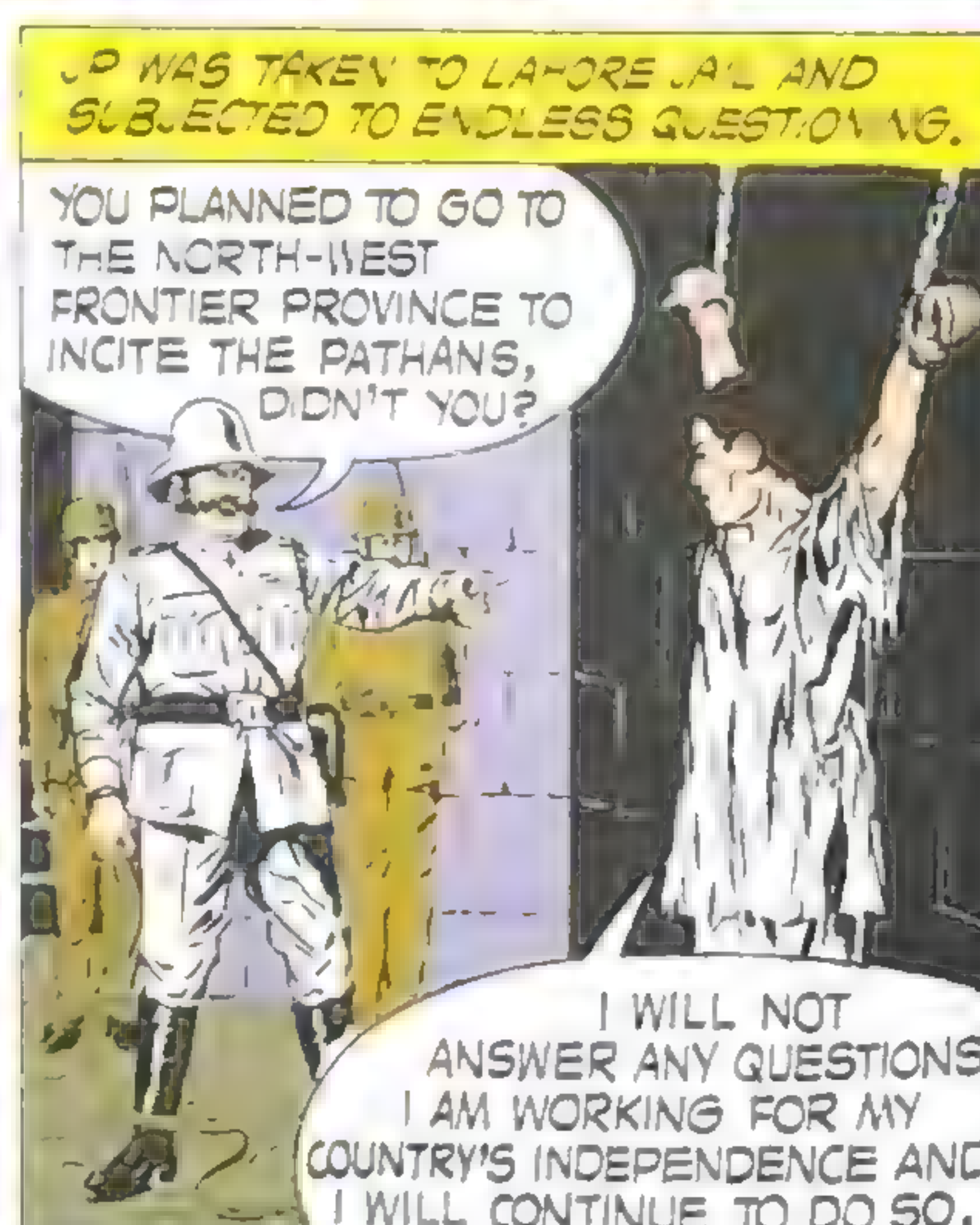
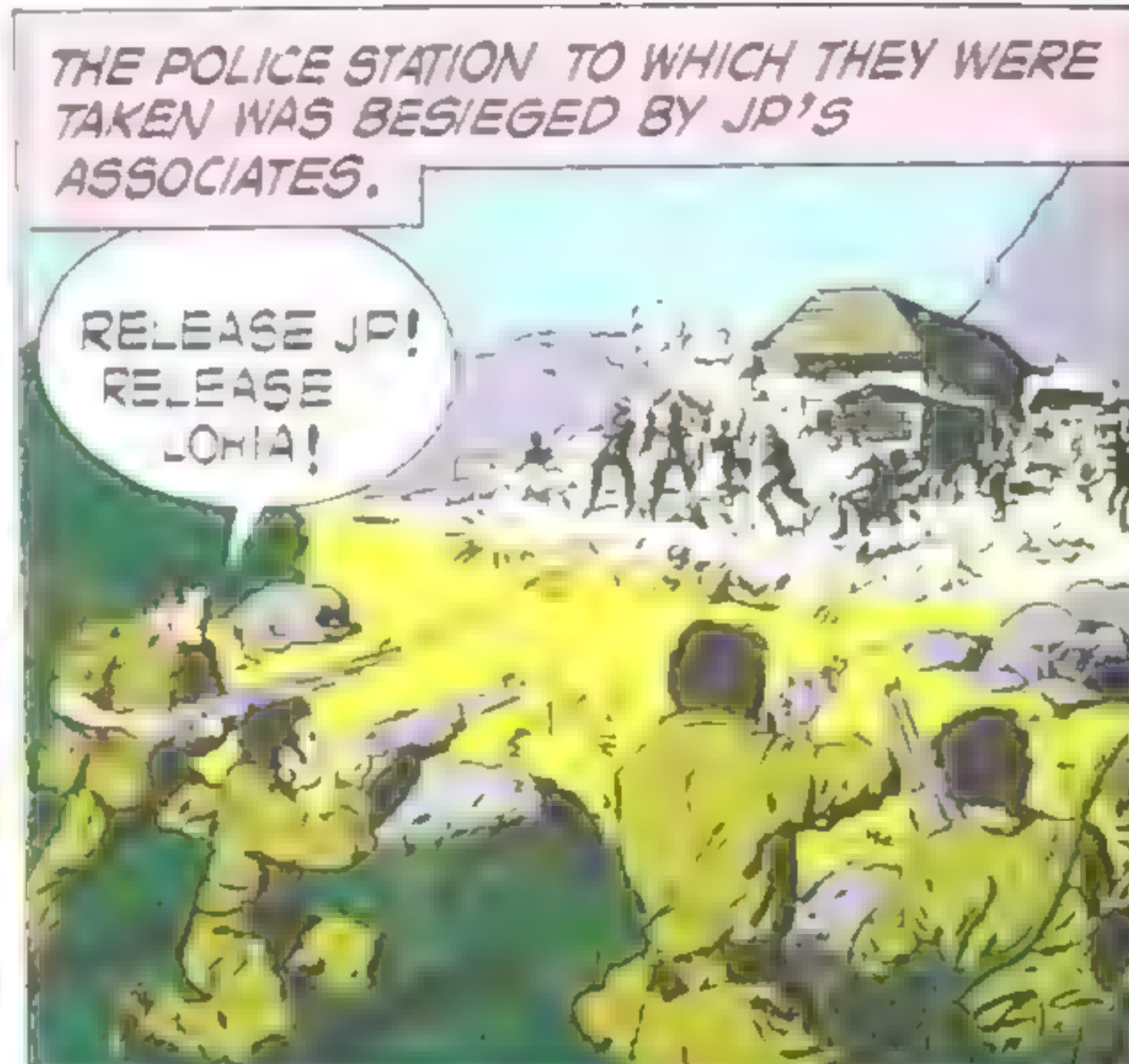
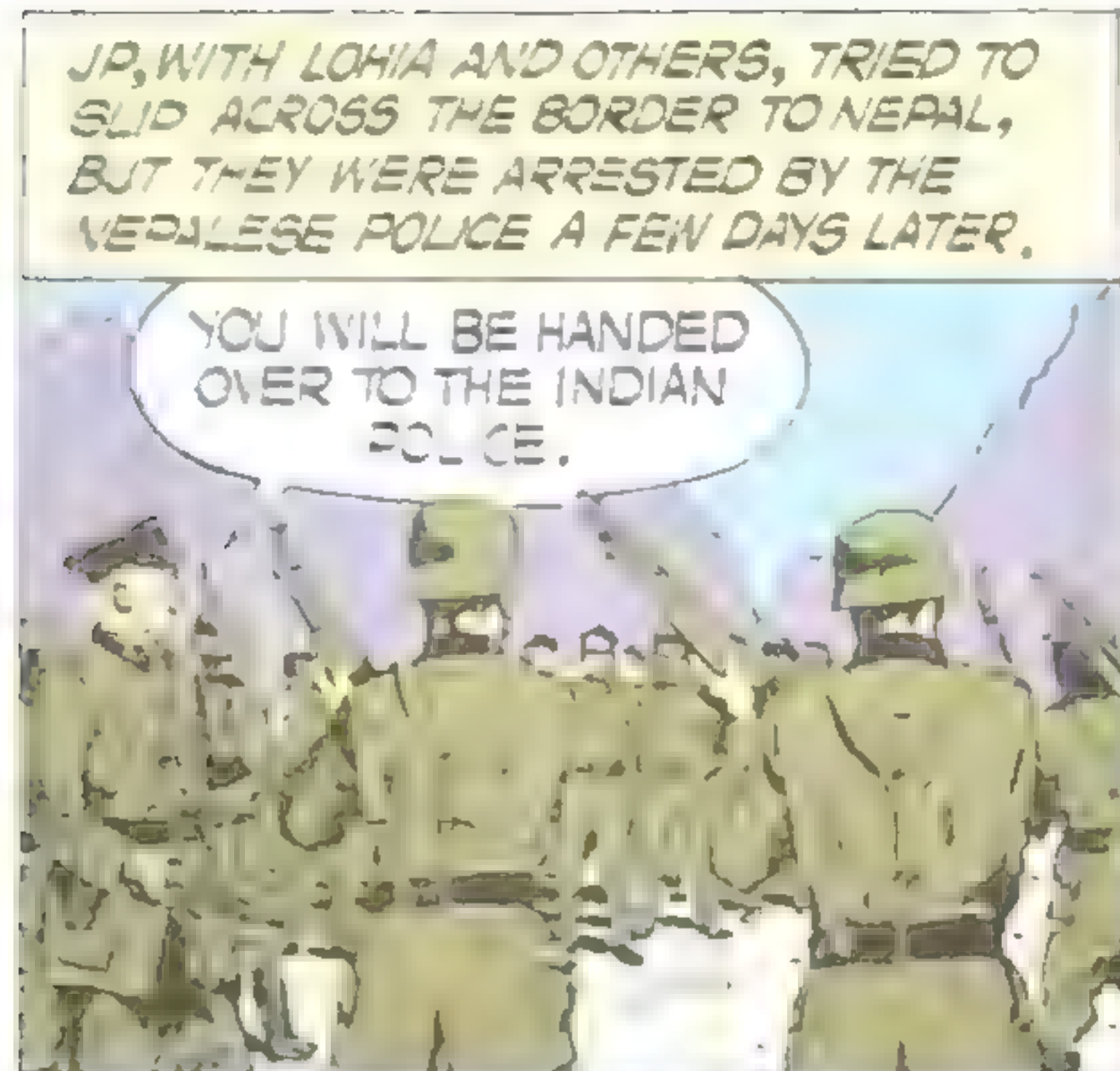
THE WHOLE COUNTRY SPOKE OF JAYAPRAKASH'S BOLD ESCAPE WITH PRIDE.

A REWARD OF TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND RUPEES HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO HIS ARREST.



JP SET UP A TRAINING CENTRE FOR REVOLUTIONARIES NEAR THE KOSI RIVER IN BIHAR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA JOINED HIM THERE.





GANDHI UNDERSTOOD JP'S ANGUISH.

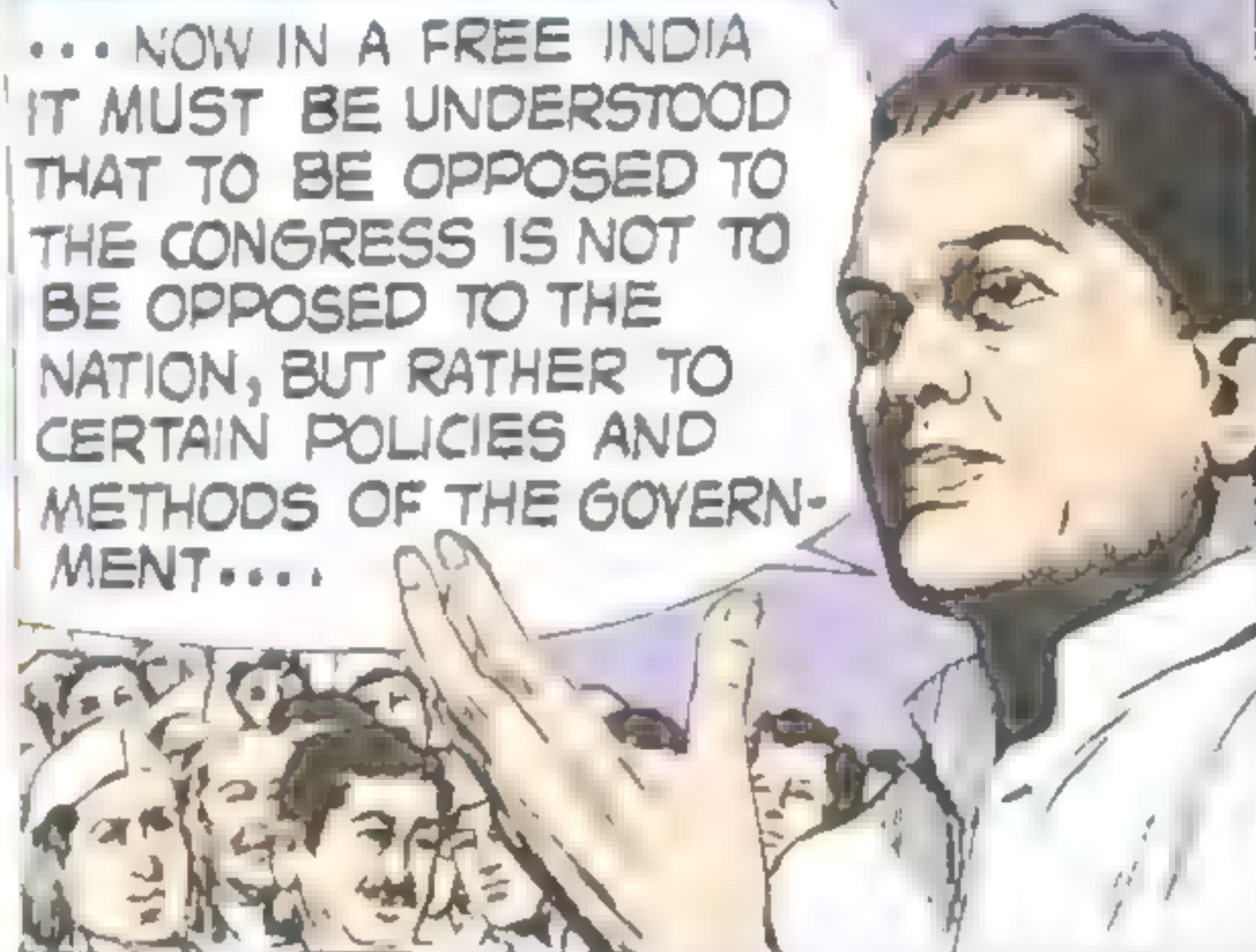
PRABHA, AT THIS TIME YOUR PLACE IS BY THE SIDE OF JAYAPRAKASH. YOU MUST GO TO HIM.

I WILL GO, BAPUJI.



IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR, JP AND HIS FRIENDS FORMED THE SOCIALIST PARTY, INDEPENDENT OF THE CONGRESS.

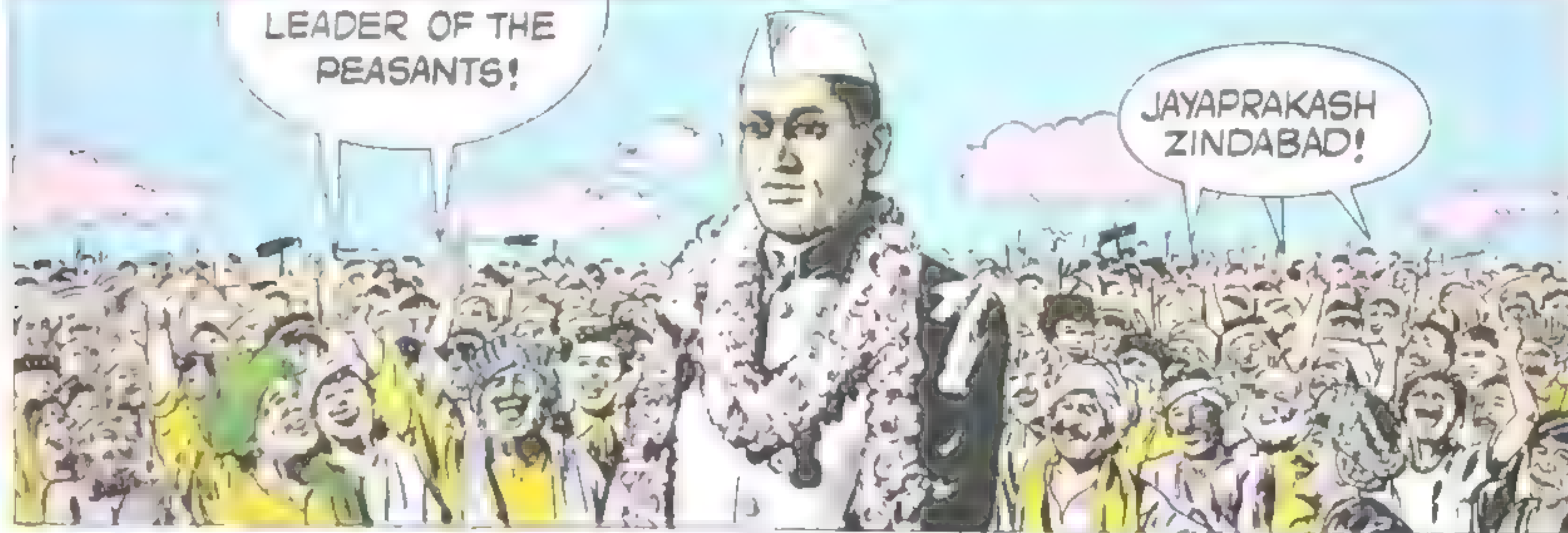
... NOW IN A FREE INDIA IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT TO BE OPPOSED TO THE CONGRESS IS NOT TO BE OPPOSED TO THE NATION, BUT RATHER TO CERTAIN POLICIES AND METHODS OF THE GOVERNMENT....



JP PLUNGED INTO HIS WORK WITH ADDED ENTHUSIASM. ON NOVEMBER 25, 1949, HE ORGANISED AN UNPRECEDENTED DEMONSTRATION BY PEASANTS IN PATNA.

LEADER OF THE PEASANTS!

JAYAPRAKASH ZINDABAD!

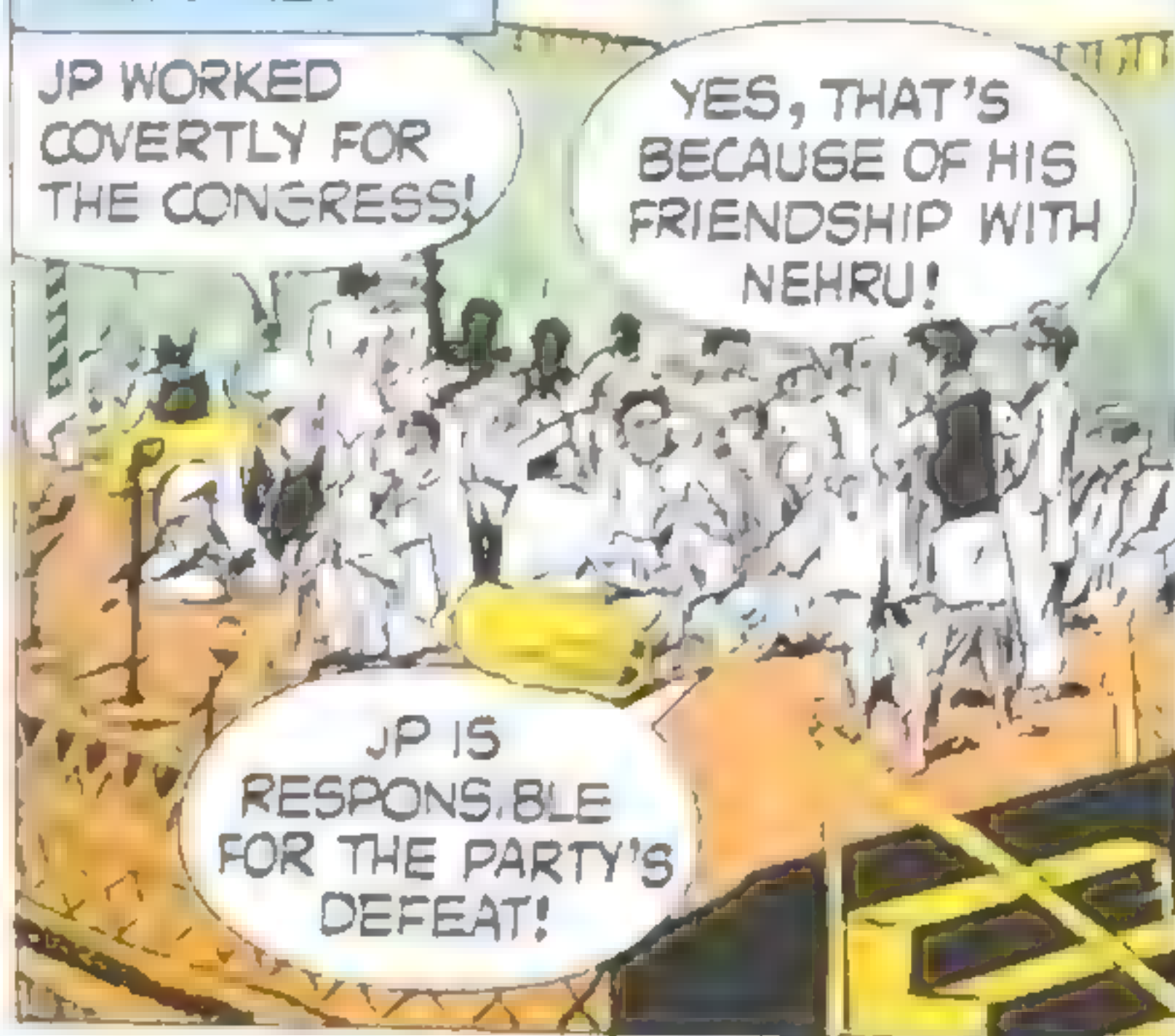


IN THE GENERAL ELECTIONS OF 1952, THE SOCIALIST PARTY FARED BADLY. LATER, WHEN THE BIHAR UNIT OF THE PARTY MET—

JP WORKED COVERTLY FOR THE CONGRESS!

YES, THAT'S BECAUSE OF HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH NEHRU!

JP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PARTY'S DEFEAT!

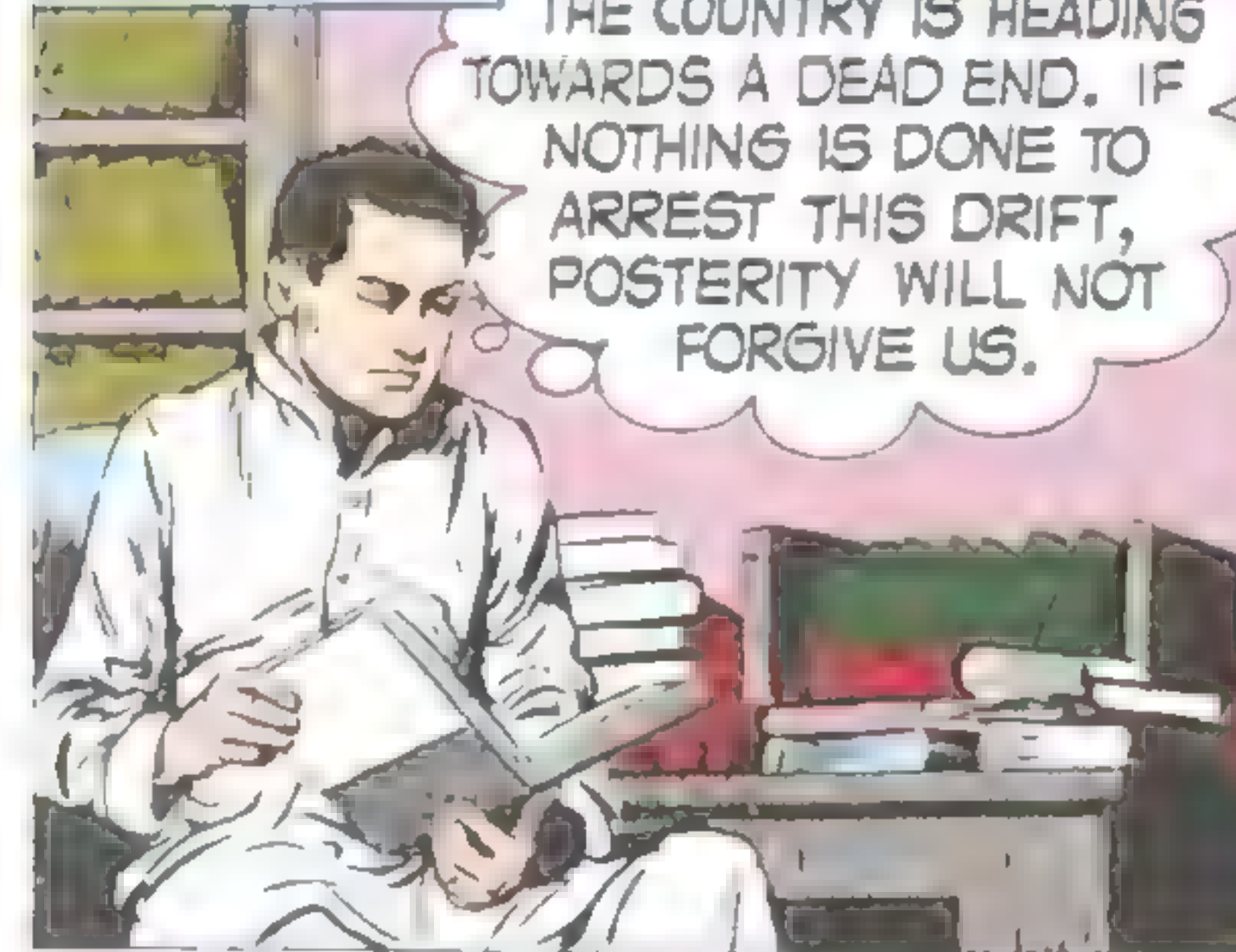


THE MAN WHO HAD DEDICATED HIMSELF TO HIS PARTY, COULD NOT BEAR THESE ACCUSATIONS: JP BROKE DOWN.



JP WITHDREW FROM ACTIVE POLITICS AND SPENT HIS TIME READING AND THINKING OVER THINGS.

THE COUNTRY IS HEADING TOWARDS A DEAD END. IF NOTHING IS DONE TO ARREST THIS DRIFT, POSTERITY WILL NOT FORGIVE US.



JP BEGAN TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN THE BHOODAN MOVEMENT LAUNCHED BY VINOBA BHAVE. THE MOVEMENT WAS AIMED AT PROVIDING LAND FOR THE LANDLESS AND PROMOTING VILLAGE DEMOCRACY.

THIS FIFTEEN-MILE WALK WITH YOU TODAY HAS SHOWN ME THE WAY.



THE WAY OF SERVICE AS APART FROM THAT OF POWER.



IN JUNE THAT YEAR, JP UNDERTOOK A TWENTY-ONE-DAY FAST BECAUSE HE FELT HE HAD LET DOWN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS WORKERS TO WHOM HE HAD CONVEYED GOVERNMENT PROMISES WHICH WERE NOT KEPT. HE FELT MORALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR DISAPPOINTING THE WORKERS.



LATER, HE JOINED THE BHOODAN MOVEMENT. HE PERSUADED LAND-OWNERS TO DONATE PART OF THEIR LAND TO THE LANDLESS PEASANTS.

I DO NOT POSSESS MUCH. BUT I WILL BE GLAD TO GIVE SOME OF IT TO THOSE WHO HAVE NONE AT ALL.



FRIEND, YOU HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE MEANING OF OUR MISSION. IF ONLY RICHER LANDLORDS WOULD DO AS YOU HAVE DONE!

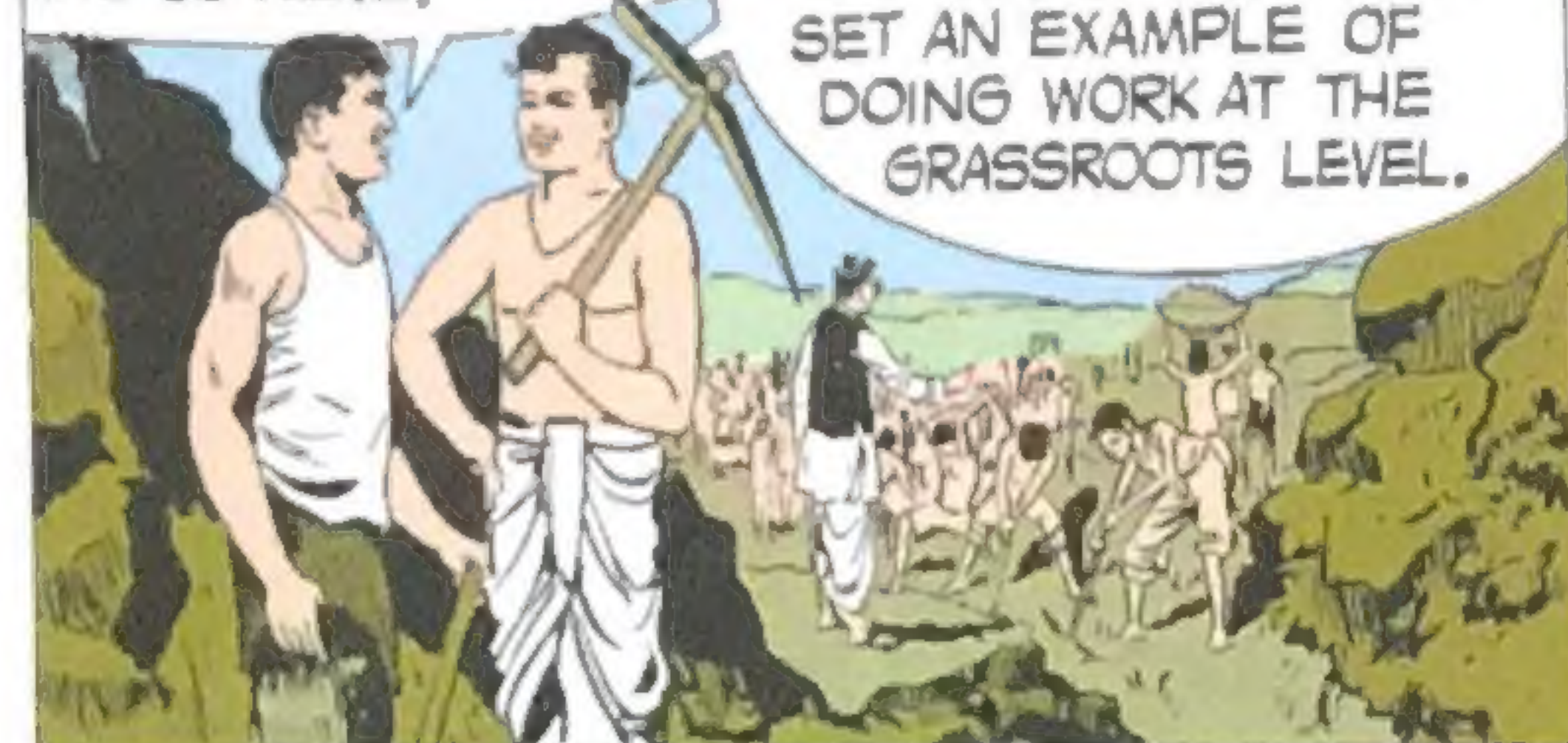
IN ONE WEEK JP COLLECTED PLEDGES FOR SEVEN THOUSAND ACRES OF LAND.

IN 1954, JP ADDRESSED A HUGE GATHERING OF SARVODAYA WORKERS —



NEARLY SIX HUNDRED PERSONS DECIDED TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE. HE SETTLED DOWN IN AN EXTREMELY BACKWARD VILLAGE IN BIHAR. IN A FEW YEARS, THE AREA WAS TRANSFORMED. DAMS WERE DUG TO TRAP RAIN-WATER AND THEY EVEN TRIED OUT SIMPLE RURAL TECHNOLOGY AND BUILT A GOBAR-GAS PLANT.

ISN'T IT WONDERFUL TO HAVE JAYAPRAKASH DIRECTING US HERE?

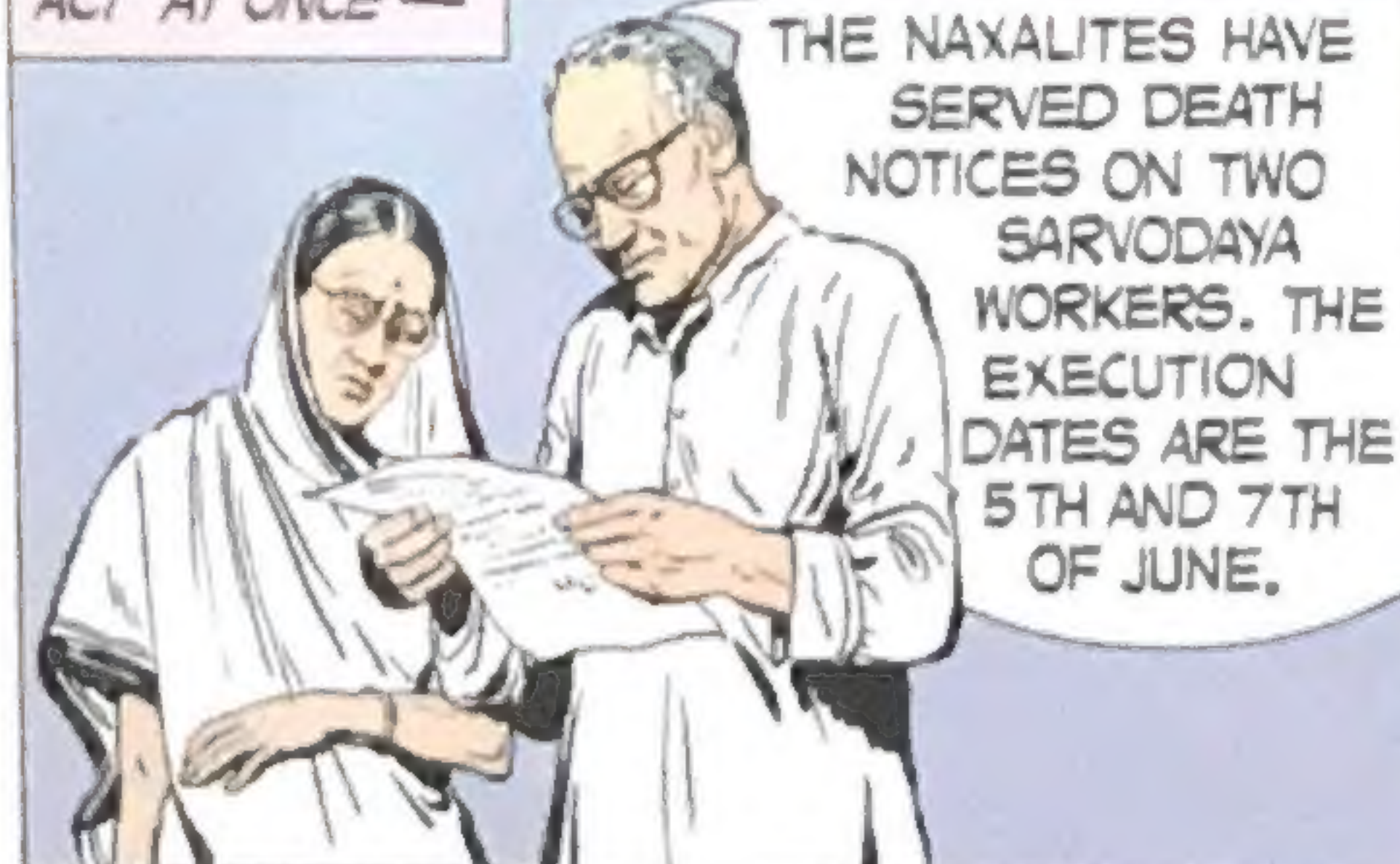


ALTHOUGH RESPONSE TO THE BHOODAN MOVEMENT WAS ENTHUSIASTIC AT FIRST, IT GRADUALLY BEGAN TO LOSE ITS FIRE.

WE ARE BECOMING STALE AND FLABBY OF SPIRIT. PERHAPS THIS IS BECAUSE OUR WORK INVOLVES NO DANGER TO US AND DEMANDS NO GREAT SACRIFICE.



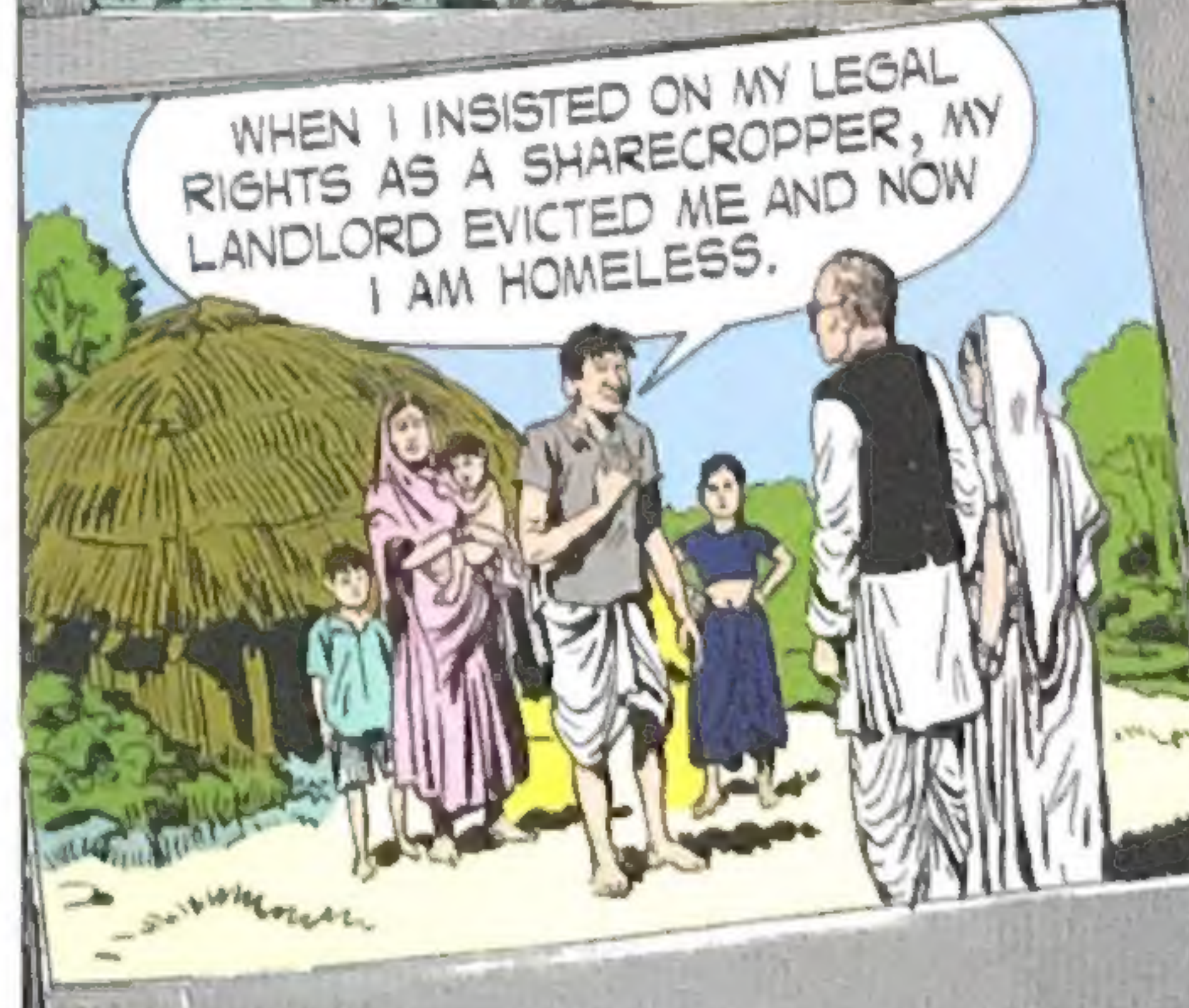
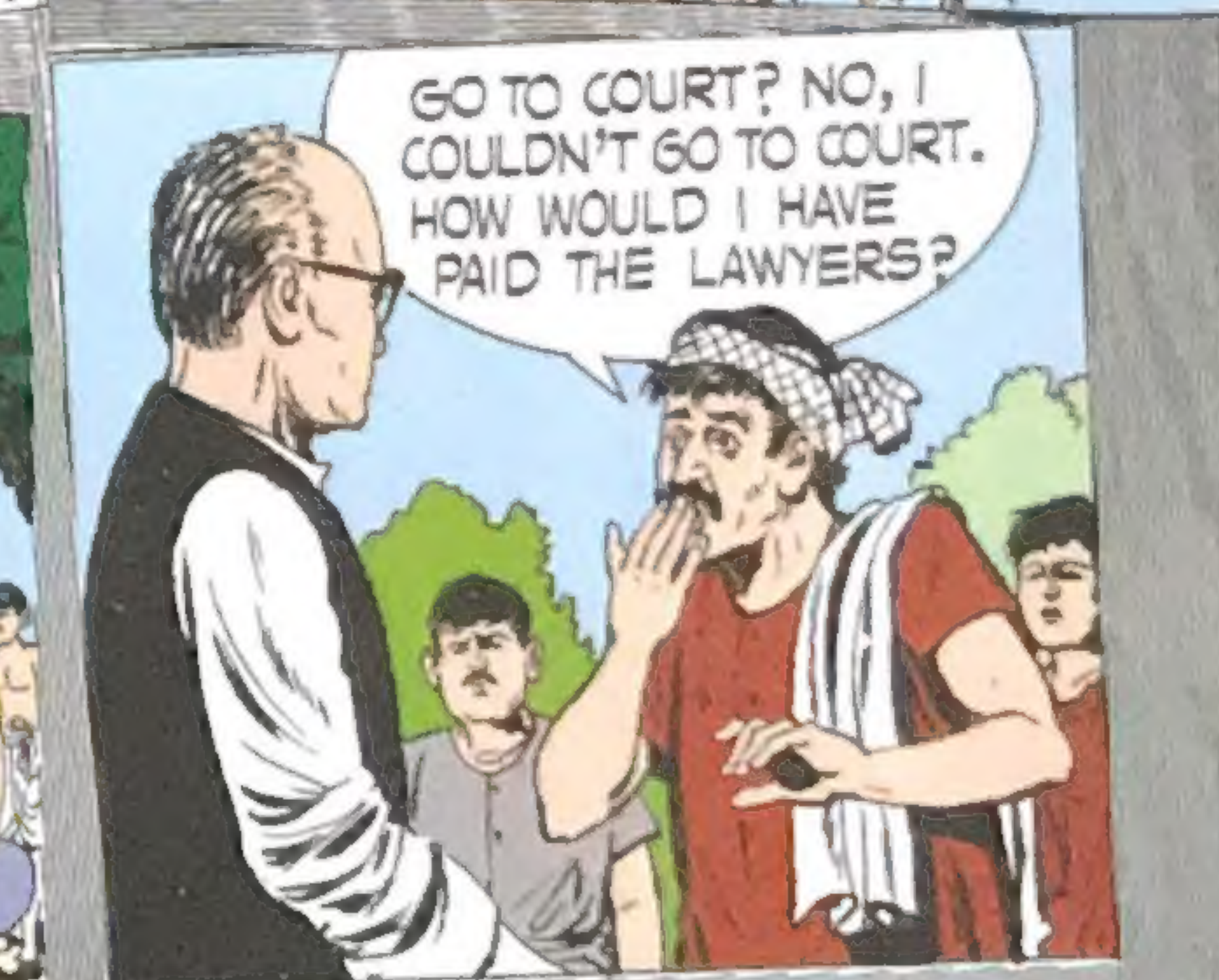
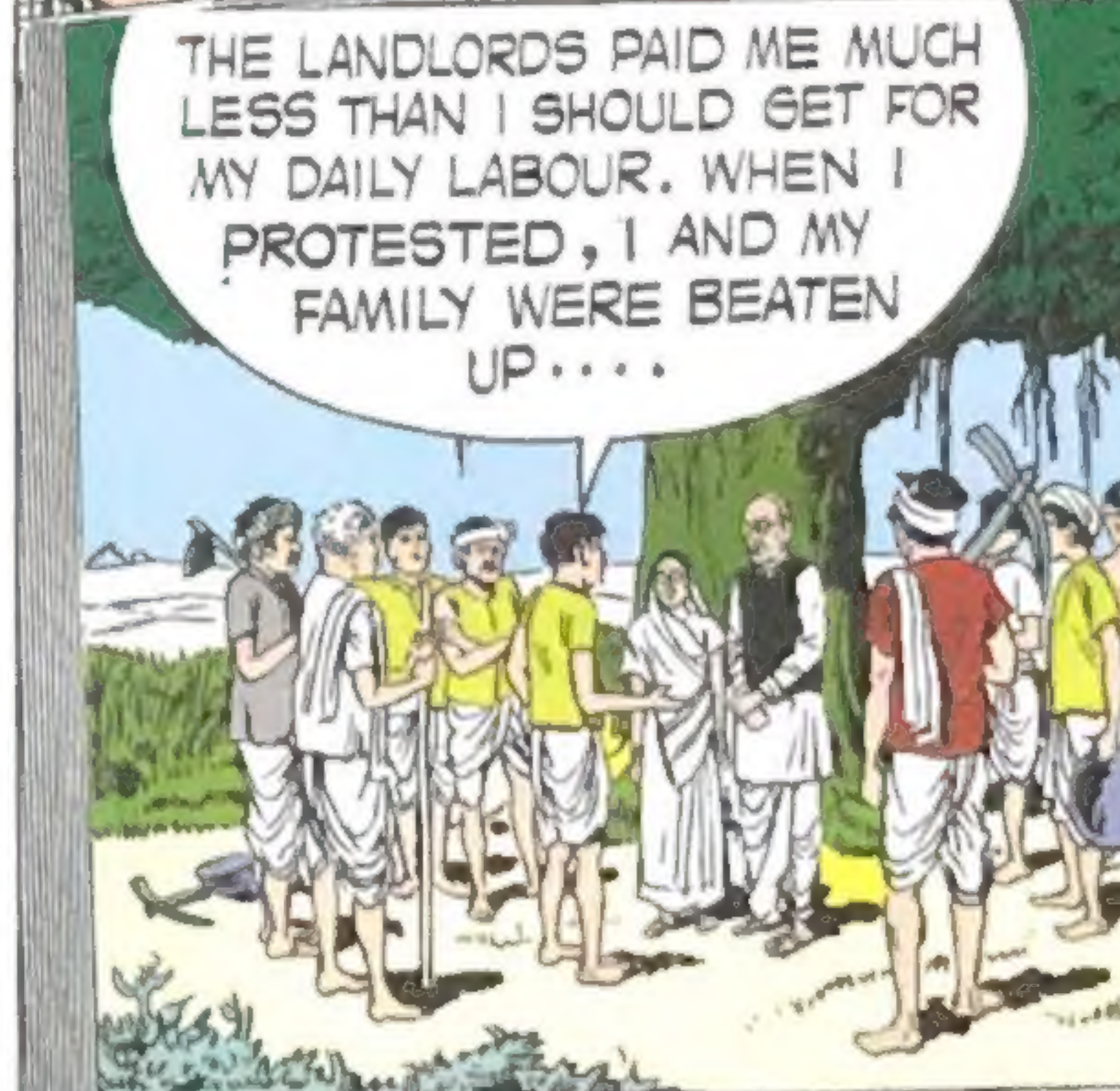
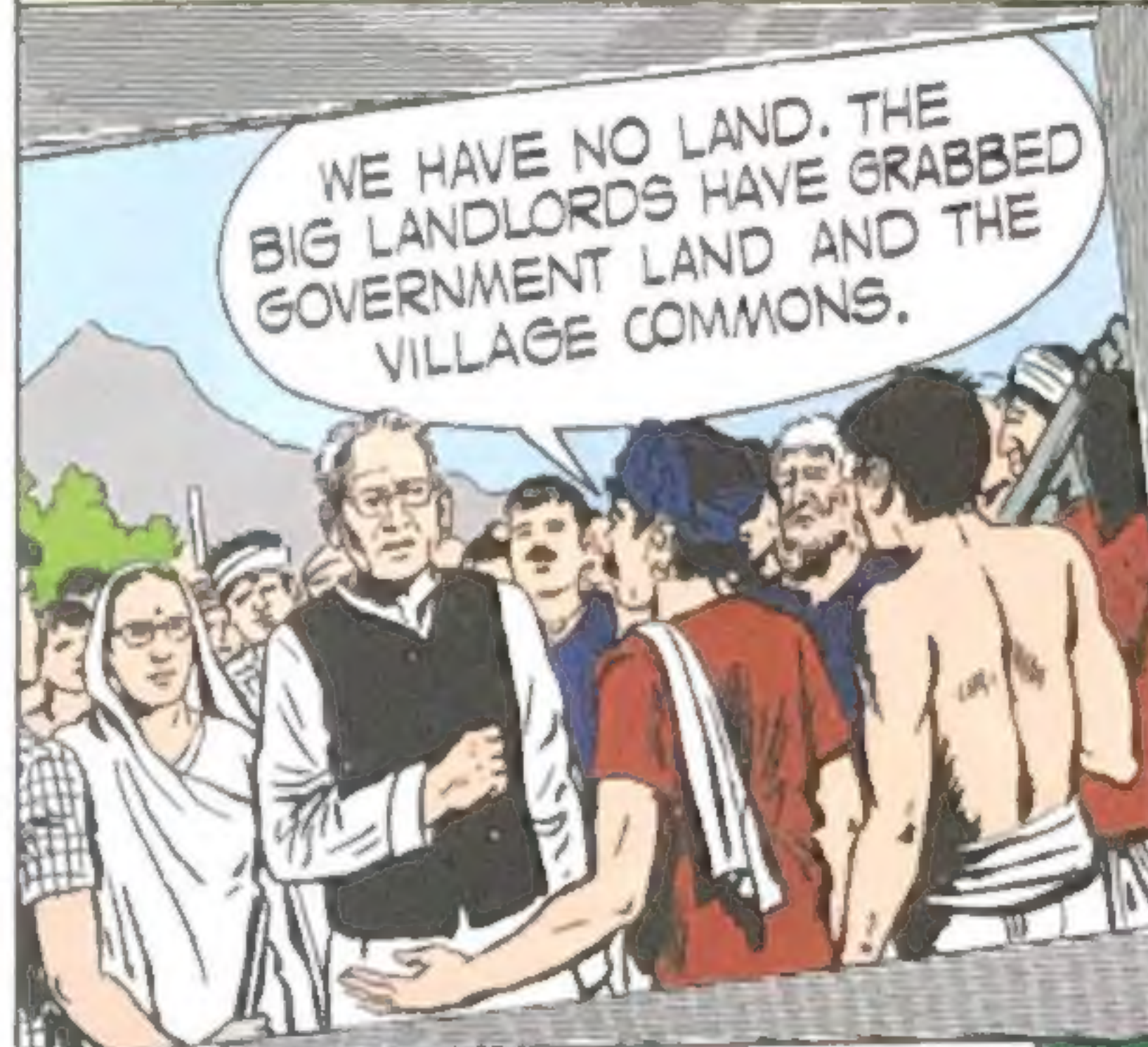
THEN ONE DAY IN MAY 1970, HE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM MUZAFFARPUR WHICH MADE HIM ACT AT ONCE —



PRABHA, WE WILL LEAVE FOR MUZAFFARPUR IMMEDIATELY.



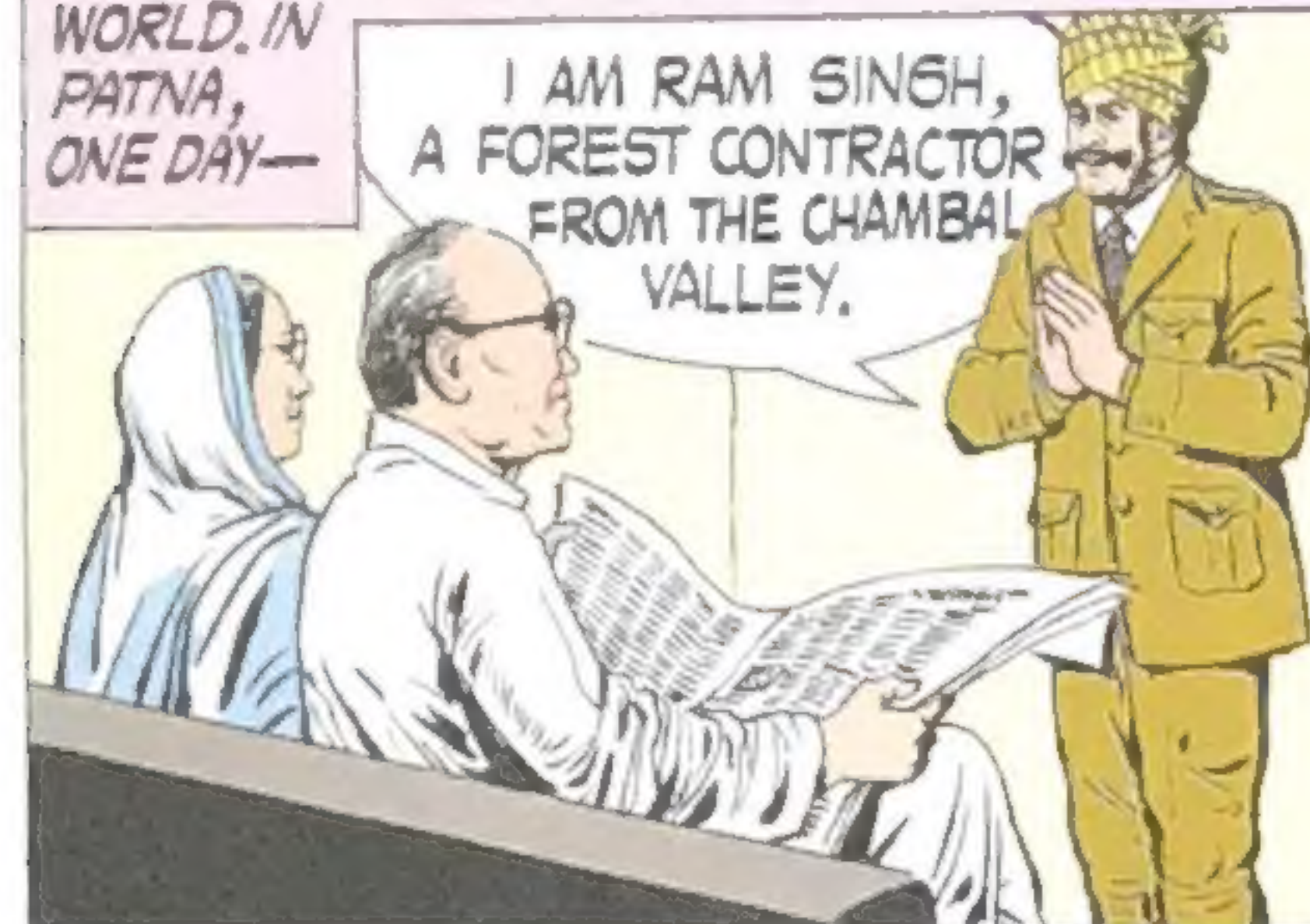
FORTUNATELY, THE THREATENED EXECUTIONS WERE NOT CARRIED OUT. WHEN JP AND HIS WIFE ARRIVED AT MUZAFFARPUR, VILLAGERS POURED OUT THEIR HEARTS TO THEM, POINTING OUT THAT THE RICH HAD PERSISTENTLY DEFIED REFORM LAWS.



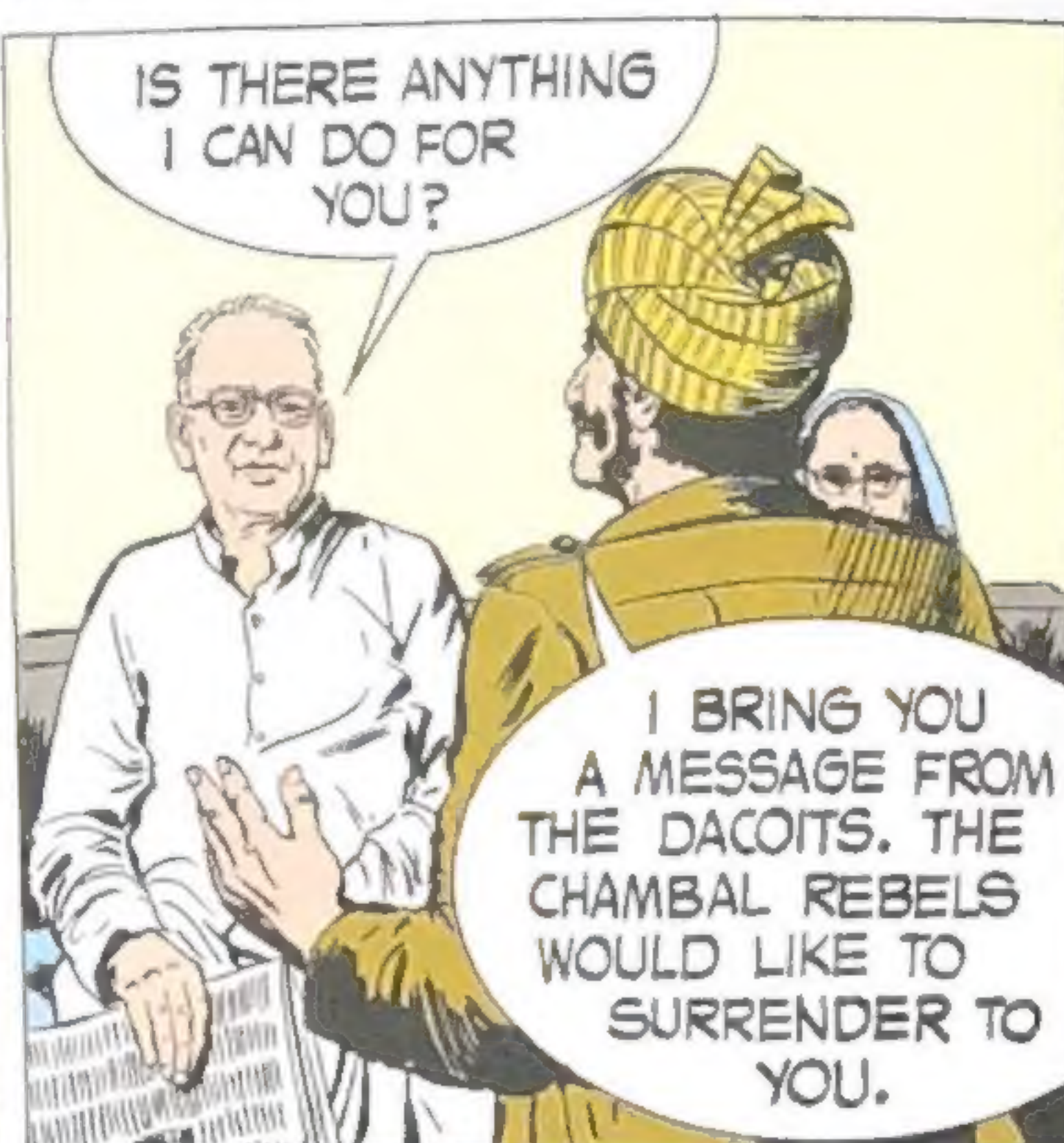
THE GOVERNMENT IS OUT OF TOUCH. THE SOLUTION IS TO INVOLVE PEOPLE DIRECTLY IN THE PROCESS OF SOCIAL CHANGE AND, IF THE SITUATION REQUIRES IT, TO OFFER NON-VIOLENT NON-CO-OPERATION. GANDHIJI HAS SHOWN US THE WAY.



JP APPLIED HIMSELF TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE NAXALITES AND THE NAGAS THROUGH SARVODAYA METHODS. BUT WHAT HAPPENED IN 1971 WAS UNIQUE, AND AMAZED THE WORLD. IN PATNA, ONE DAY—

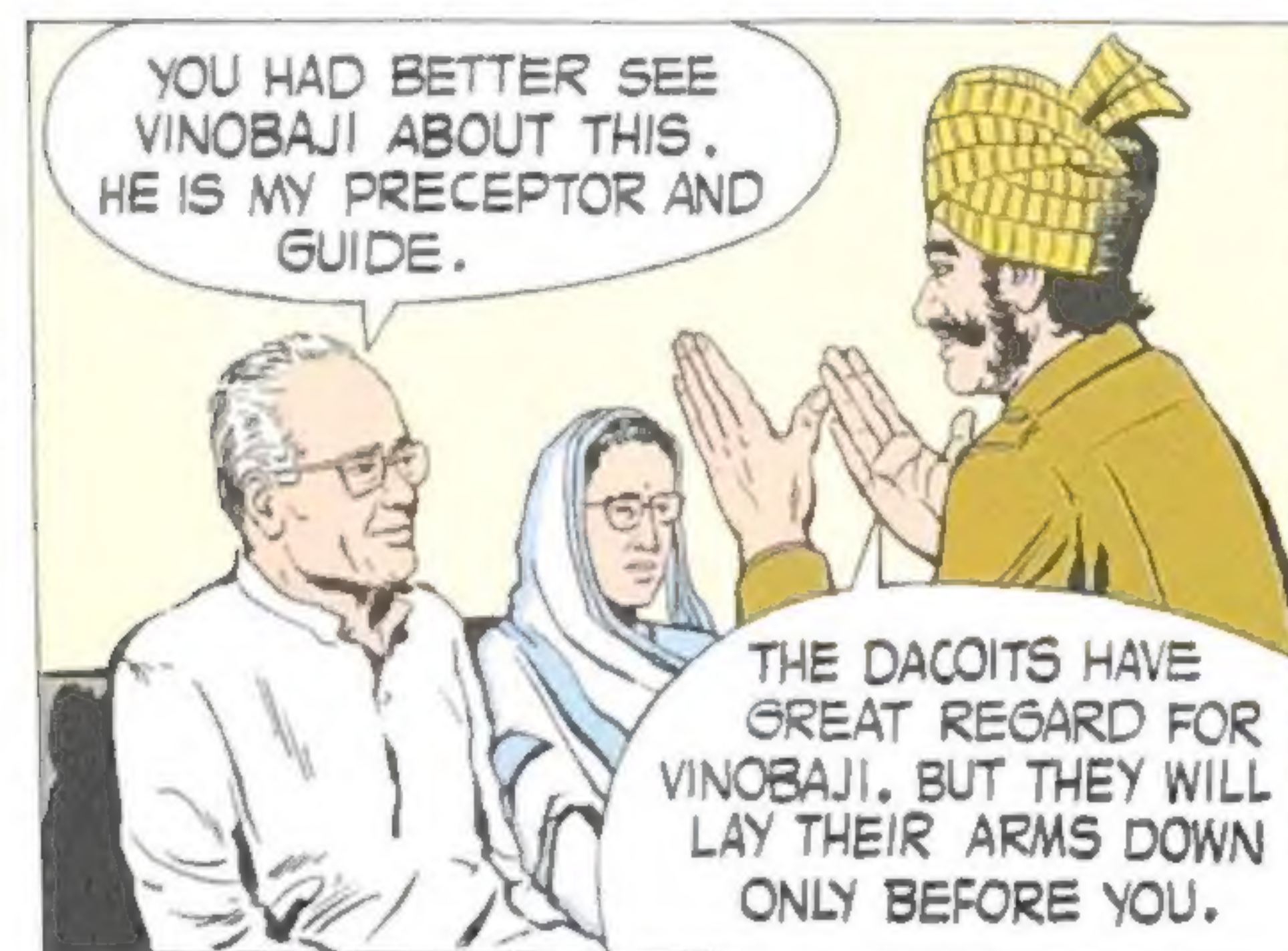


I AM RAM SINGH, A FOREST CONTRACTOR FROM THE CHAMBAL VALLEY.



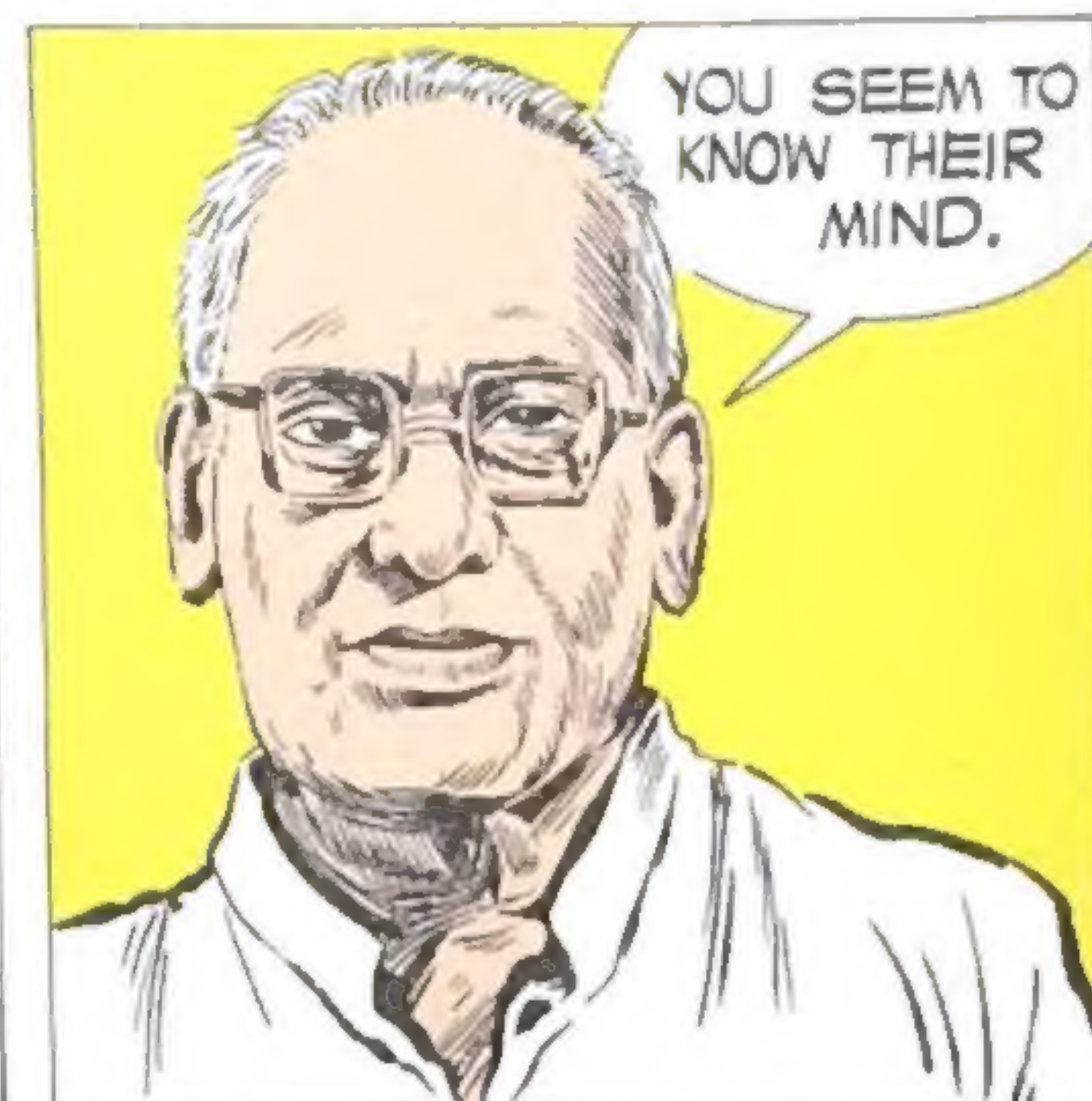
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?

I BRING YOU A MESSAGE FROM THE DACOITS. THE CHAMBAL REBELS WOULD LIKE TO SURRENDER TO YOU.

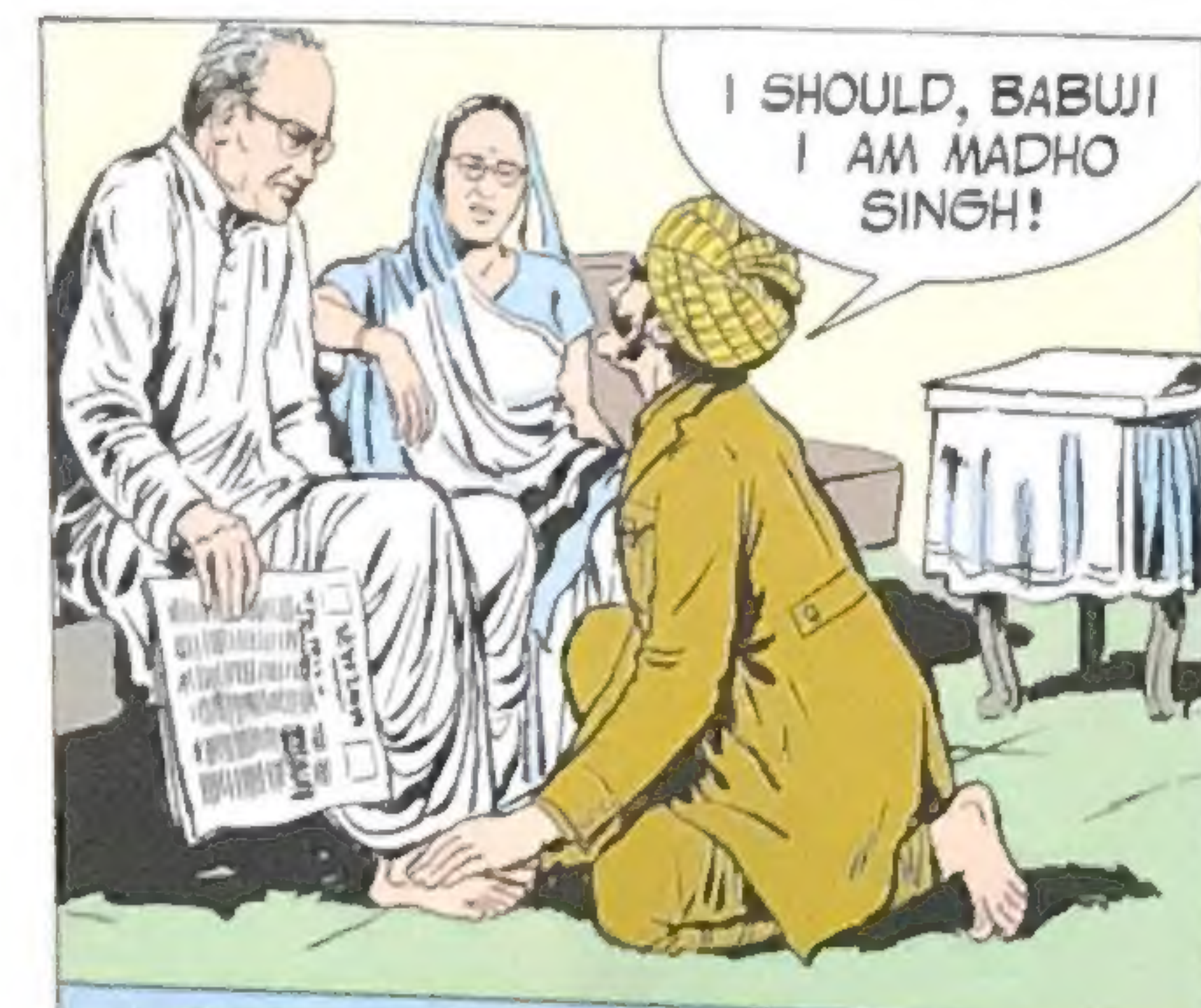


YOU HAD BETTER SEE VINOBAJI ABOUT THIS. HE IS MY PRECEPTOR AND GUIDE.

THE DACOITS HAVE GREAT REGARD FOR VINOBAJI. BUT THEY WILL LAY THEIR ARMS DOWN ONLY BEFORE YOU.

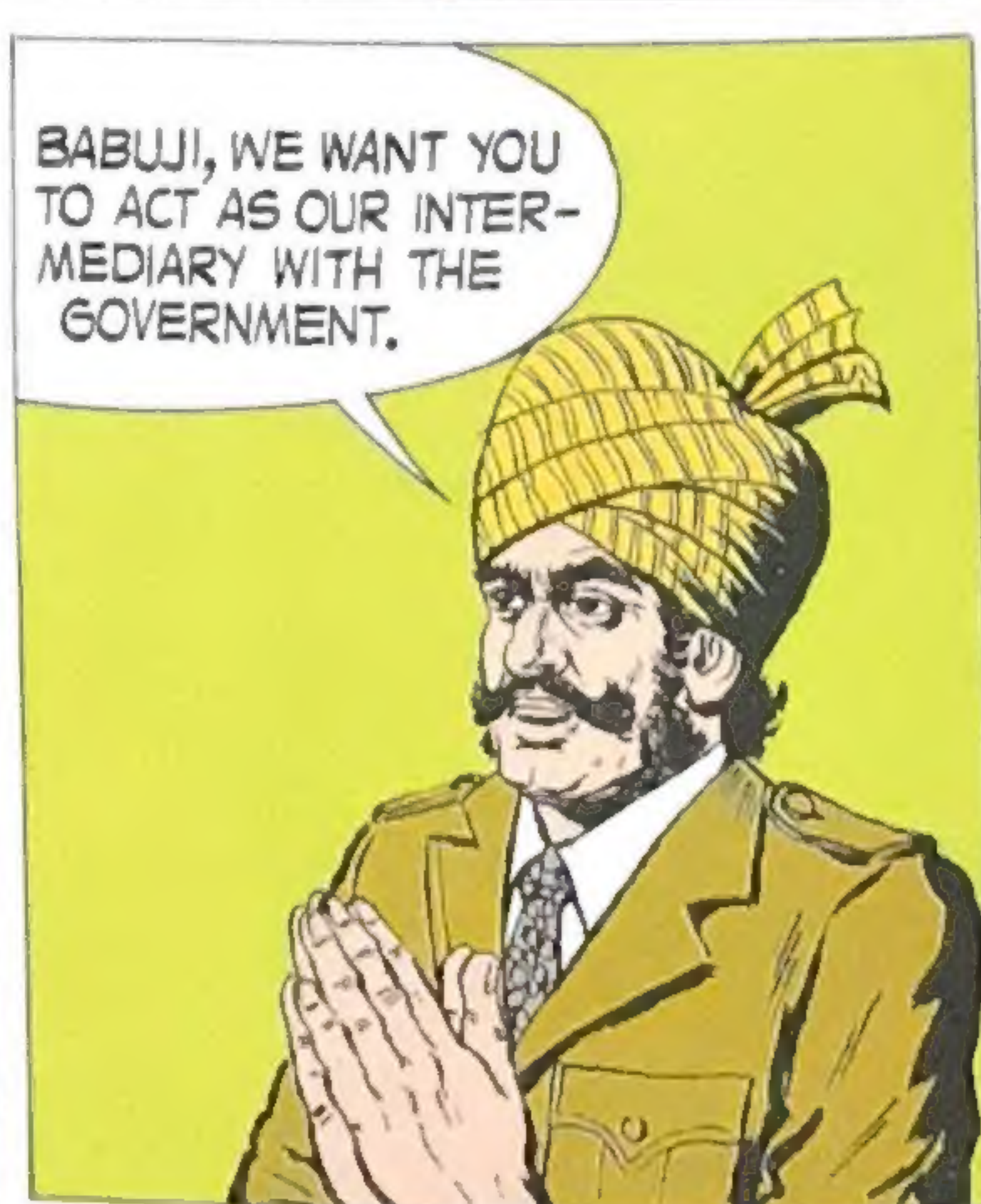


YOU SEEM TO KNOW THEIR MIND.

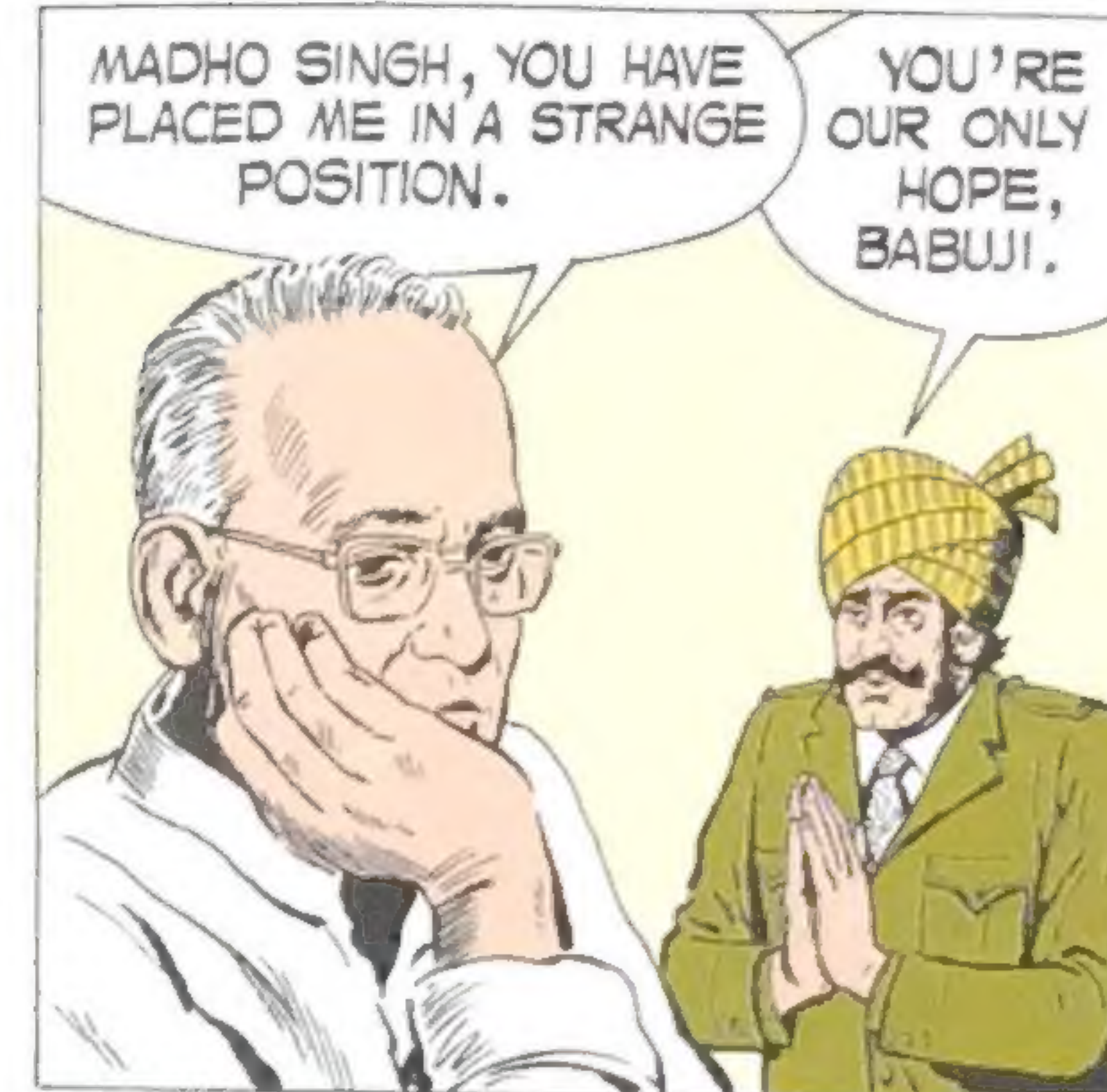


I SHOULD, BABUJI I AM MADHO SINGH!

BABUJI, WE WANT YOU TO ACT AS OUR INTER-MEDIARY WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

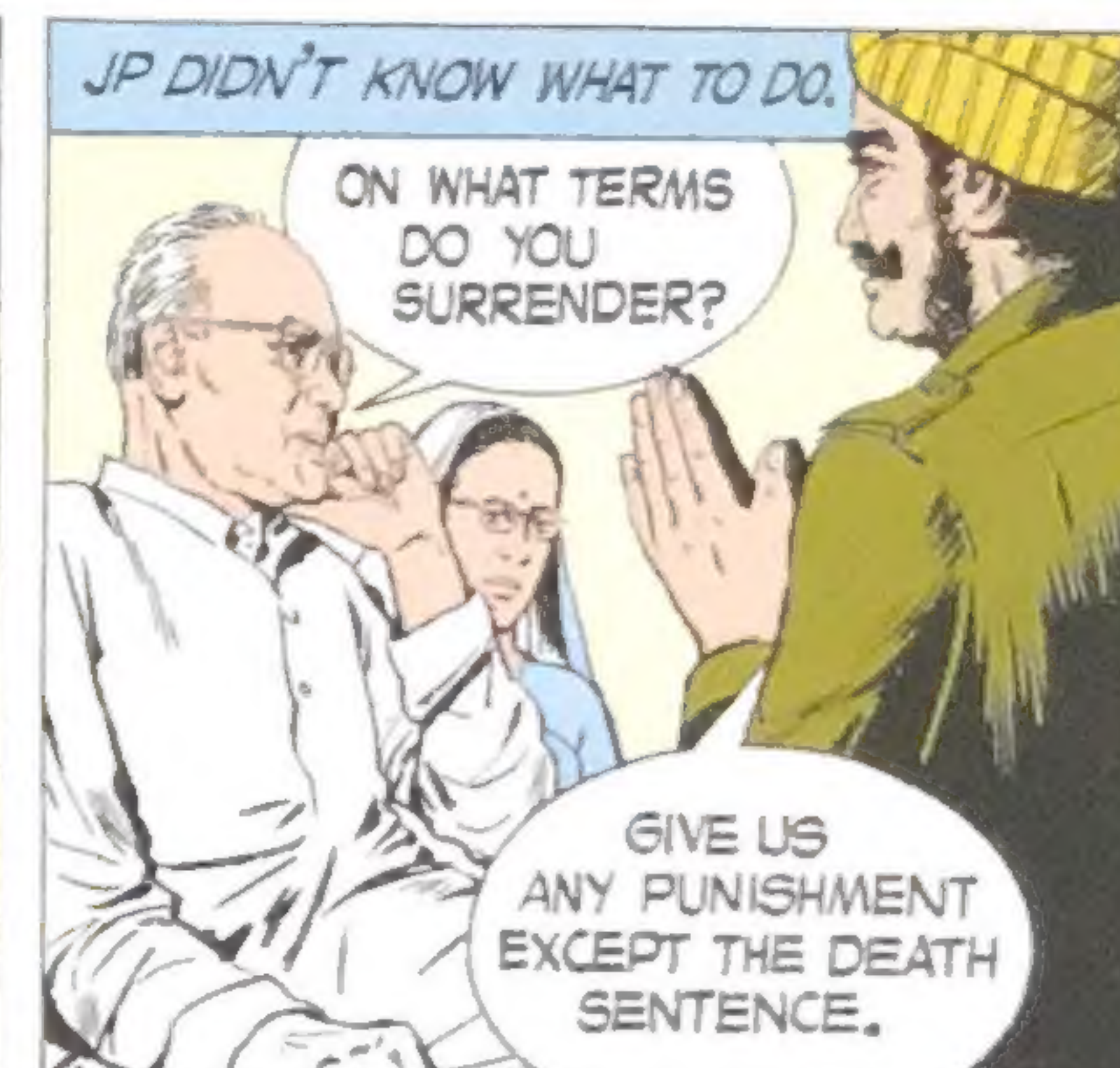


MADHO SINGH WAS THE DREADED DACOIT OF THE CHAMBAL VALLEY ON WHOSE HEAD THERE WAS A PRICE OF RS. 1,50,000.



MADHO SINGH, YOU HAVE PLACED ME IN A STRANGE POSITION.

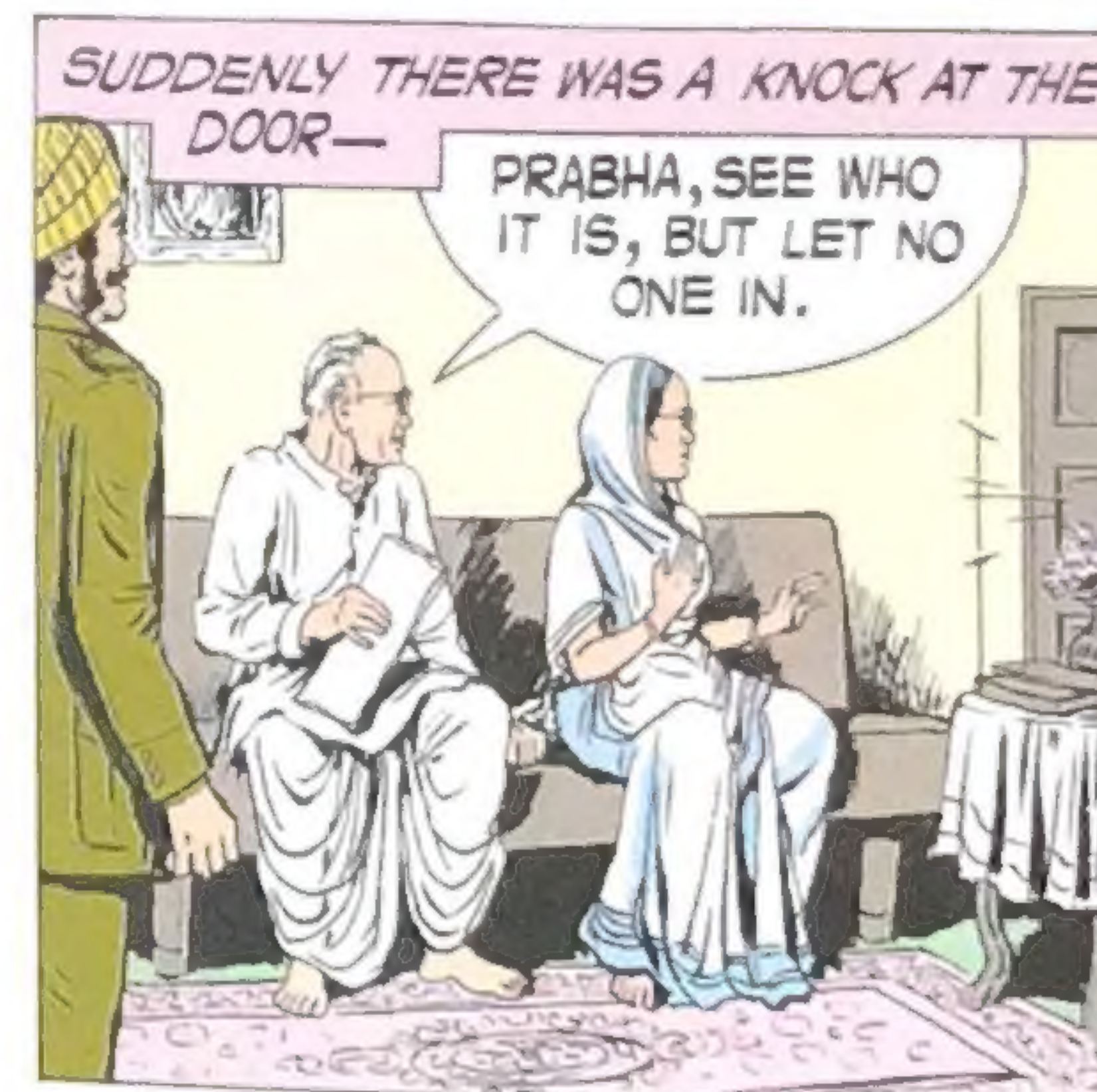
YOU'RE OUR ONLY HOPE, BABUJI.



JP DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

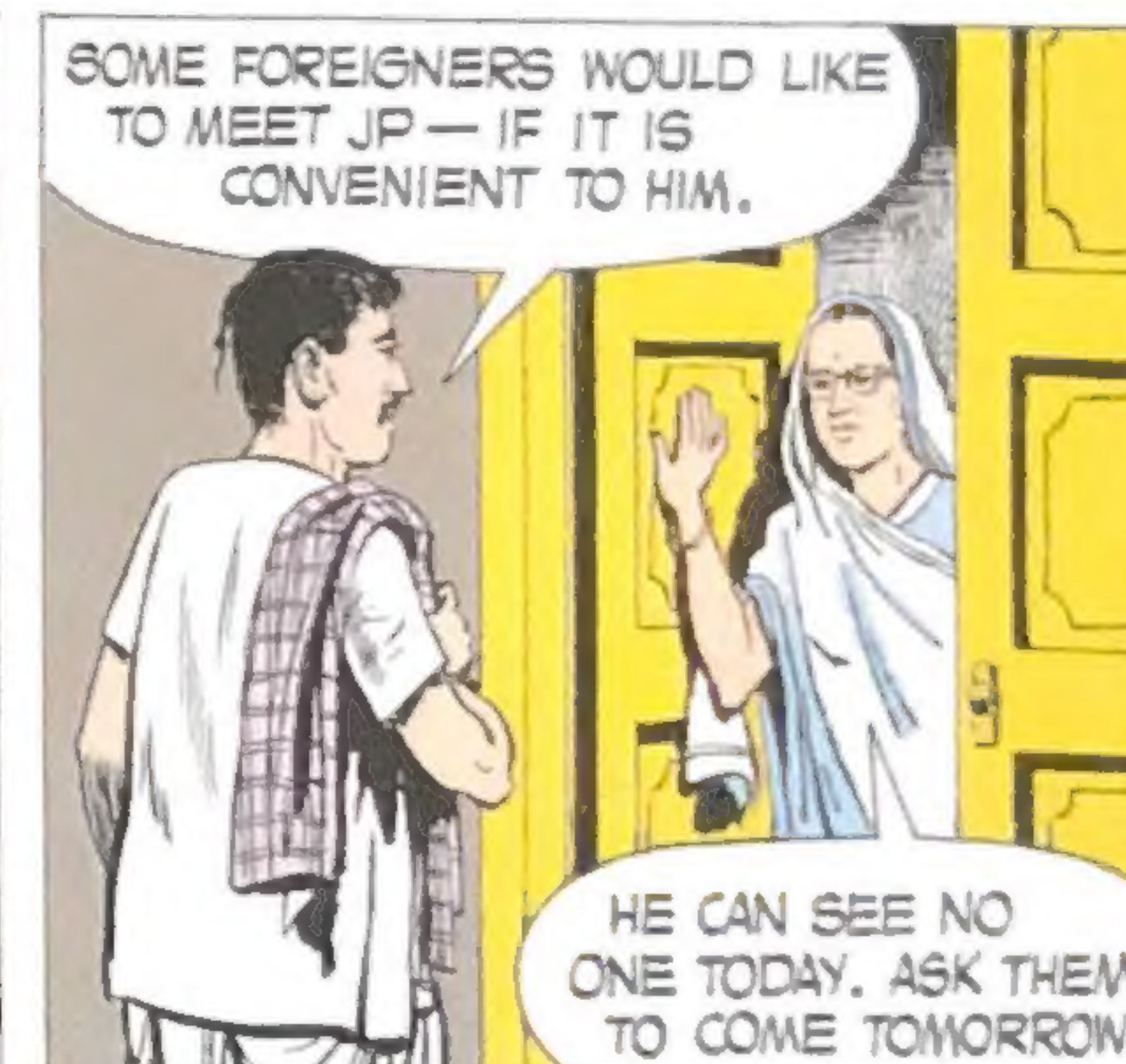
ON WHAT TERMS DO YOU SURRENDER?

GIVE US ANY PUNISHMENT EXCEPT THE DEATH SENTENCE.



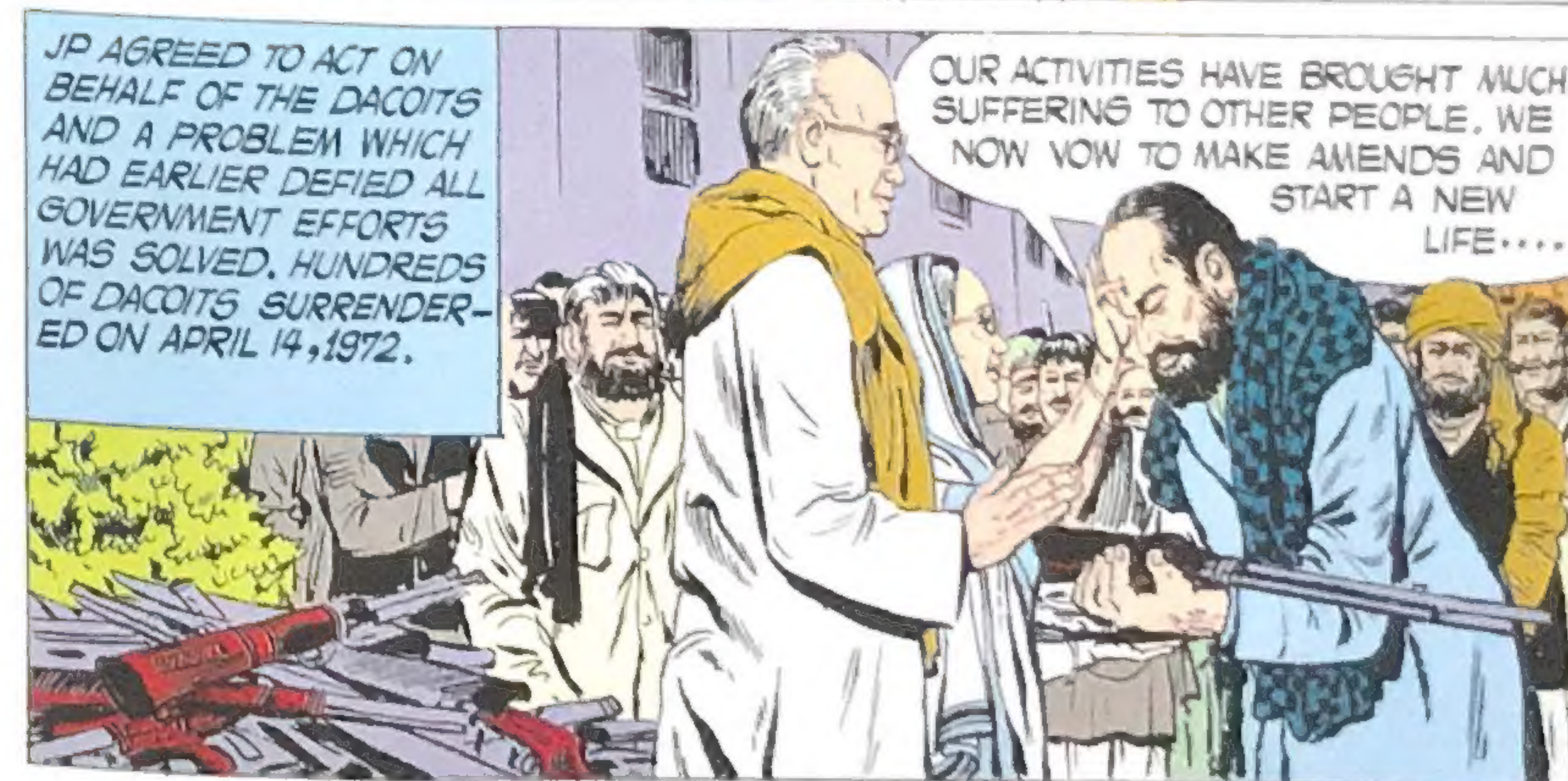
SUDDENLY THERE WAS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR—

PRABHA, SEE WHO IT IS, BUT LET NO ONE IN.



SOME FOREIGNERS WOULD LIKE TO MEET JP — IF IT IS CONVENIENT TO HIM.

HE CAN SEE NO ONE TODAY. ASK THEM TO COME TOMORROW.

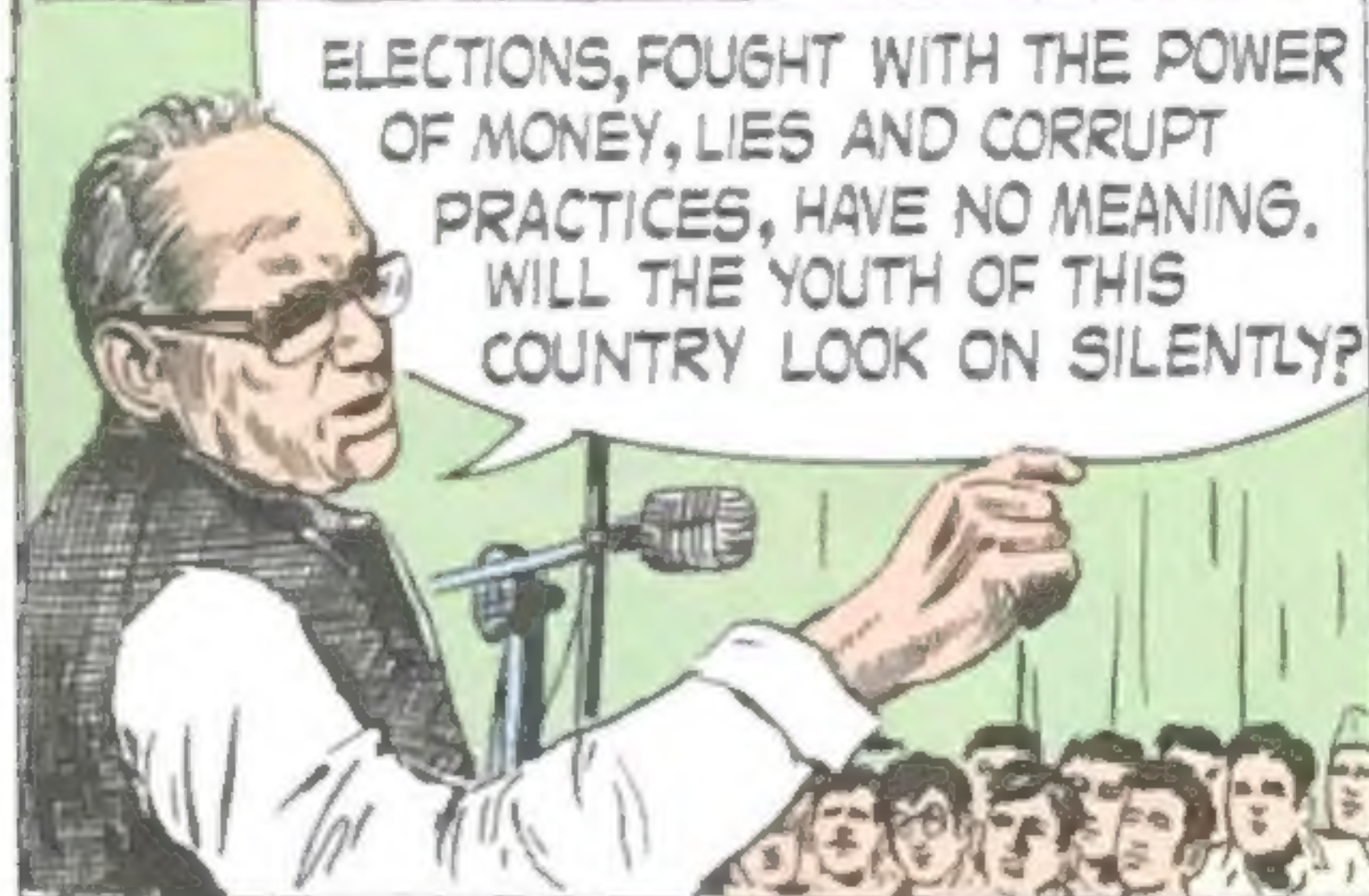


JP AGREED TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE DACOITS AND A PROBLEM WHICH HAD EARLIER DEFIED ALL GOVERNMENT EFFORTS WAS SOLVED. HUNDREDS OF DACOITS SURRENDERED ON APRIL 14, 1972.

OUR ACTIVITIES HAVE BROUGHT MUCH SUFFERING TO OTHER PEOPLE. WE NOW VOW TO MAKE AMENDS AND START A NEW LIFE....

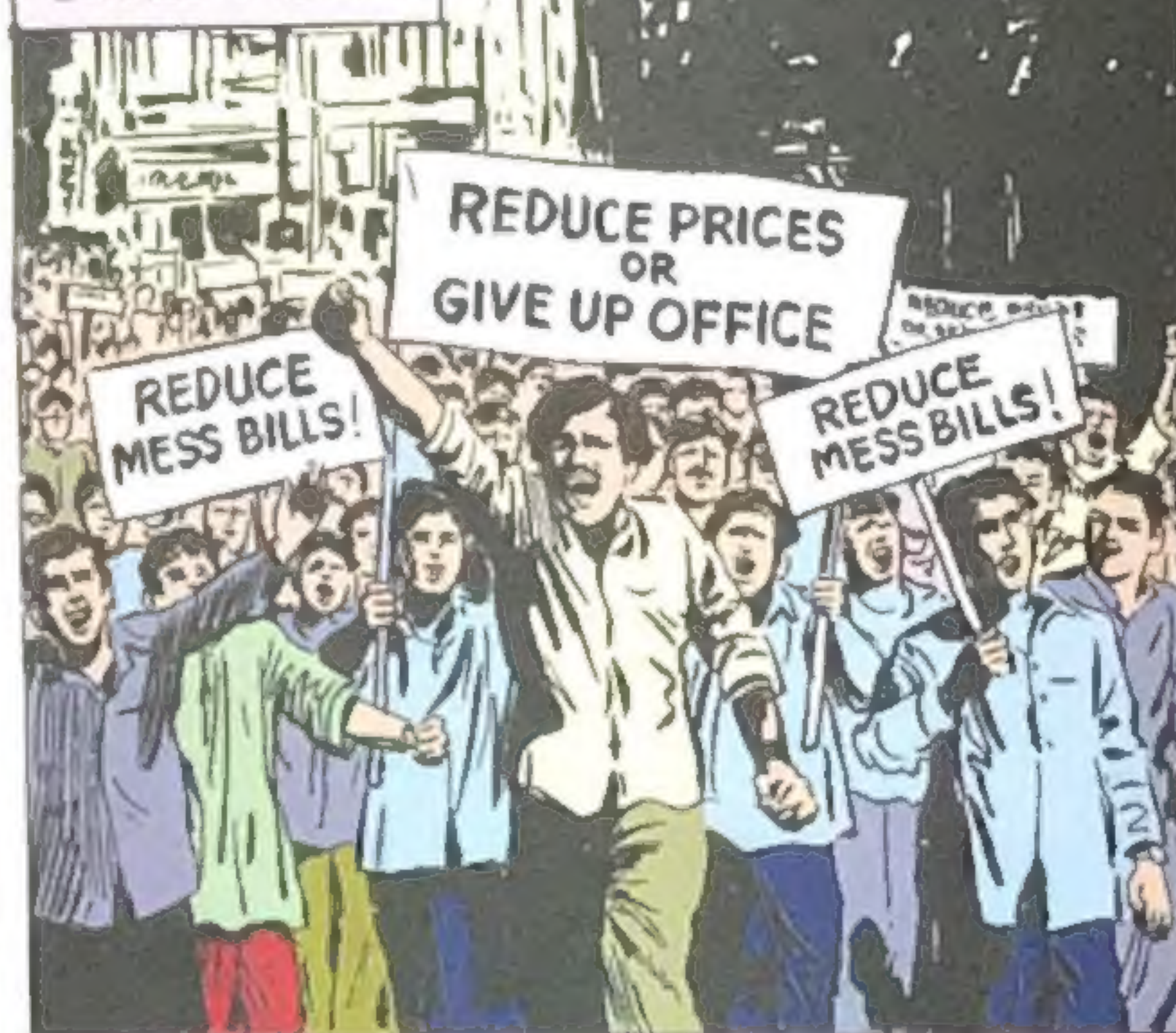
IN APRIL 1973, PRABHAVATI DIED. THE LOSS WAS GREAT BUT JP DID NOT GIVE UP HIS WORK. IN SPITE OF ILL HEALTH, HE CONTINUED HIS FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC LIFE. THE FOLLOWING YEAR, AT A STUDENTS' MEETING AT VARANASI —

INDEPENDENT STUDENTS CONFERENCE FEDERATION



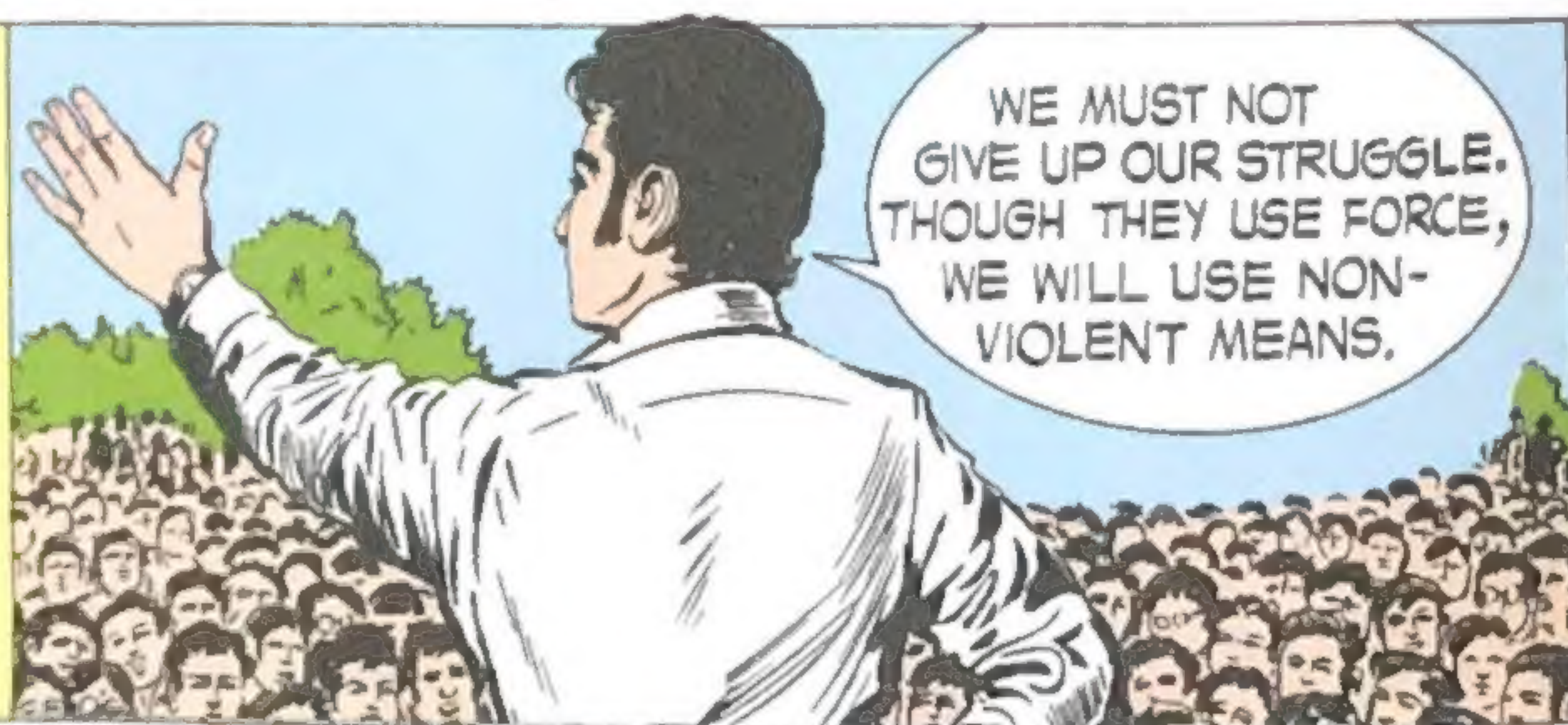
ELECTIONS, FOUGHT WITH THE POWER OF MONEY, LIES AND CORRUPT PRACTICES, HAVE NO MEANING. WILL THE YOUTH OF THIS COUNTRY LOOK ON SILENTLY?

HIS EXHORTATIONS PRODUCED THE SHARPEST REACTION IN GUJARAT WHERE A STUDENTS' STRIKE STARTED ON A SMALL ISSUE.



IT CULMINATED IN THE DISSOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

STUDENTS IN BIHAR FOLLOWED SUIT. THEY BEGAN BY MAKING DEMANDS FOR UNIVERSITY REFORM BUT ALSO PROTESTED AGAINST CORRUPTION, HIGH PRICES AND UNEMPLOYMENT. THERE WAS INDISCRIMINATE POLICE VIOLENCE AGAINST THEM.



WE MUST NOT GIVE UP OUR STRUGGLE. THOUGH THEY USE FORCE, WE WILL USE NON-VIOLENT MEANS.

THEY TURNED TO JP FOR HELP. THOUGH HE WAS ILL AT THAT TIME, HE AGREED TO GUIDE THEM.



I HAVE TWO CONDITIONS TO MAKE: NO MATTER WHAT THE PROVOCATION, YOU MUST NOT USE VIOLENCE. SECONDLY, EVEN IF YOU BELONG TO DIFFERENT PARTIES, IN THIS MOVEMENT YOU MUST FUNCTION AS ONE UNITED GROUP.

AN AMAZING RAPPORT WAS IMMEDIATELY FELT BETWEEN THE 70-YEAR-OLD LEADER AND THE YOUNG STUDENTS.



WE ARE HAPPY TO ACCEPT BOTH YOUR TERMS. THEY ARE IN KEEPING WITH OUR OWN FEELINGS ON THE MATTER.

FOLLOWING JP'S CALL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, A DEMAND WAS MADE FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF THE STATE ASSEMBLY. THE BIHAR GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, USED BRUTAL MEASURES TO SUPPRESS THE MOVEMENT. ON MARCH 18, 1974, THE POLICE FIRED ON UNARMED DEMONSTRATORS AND EIGHT PERSONS WERE KILLED.

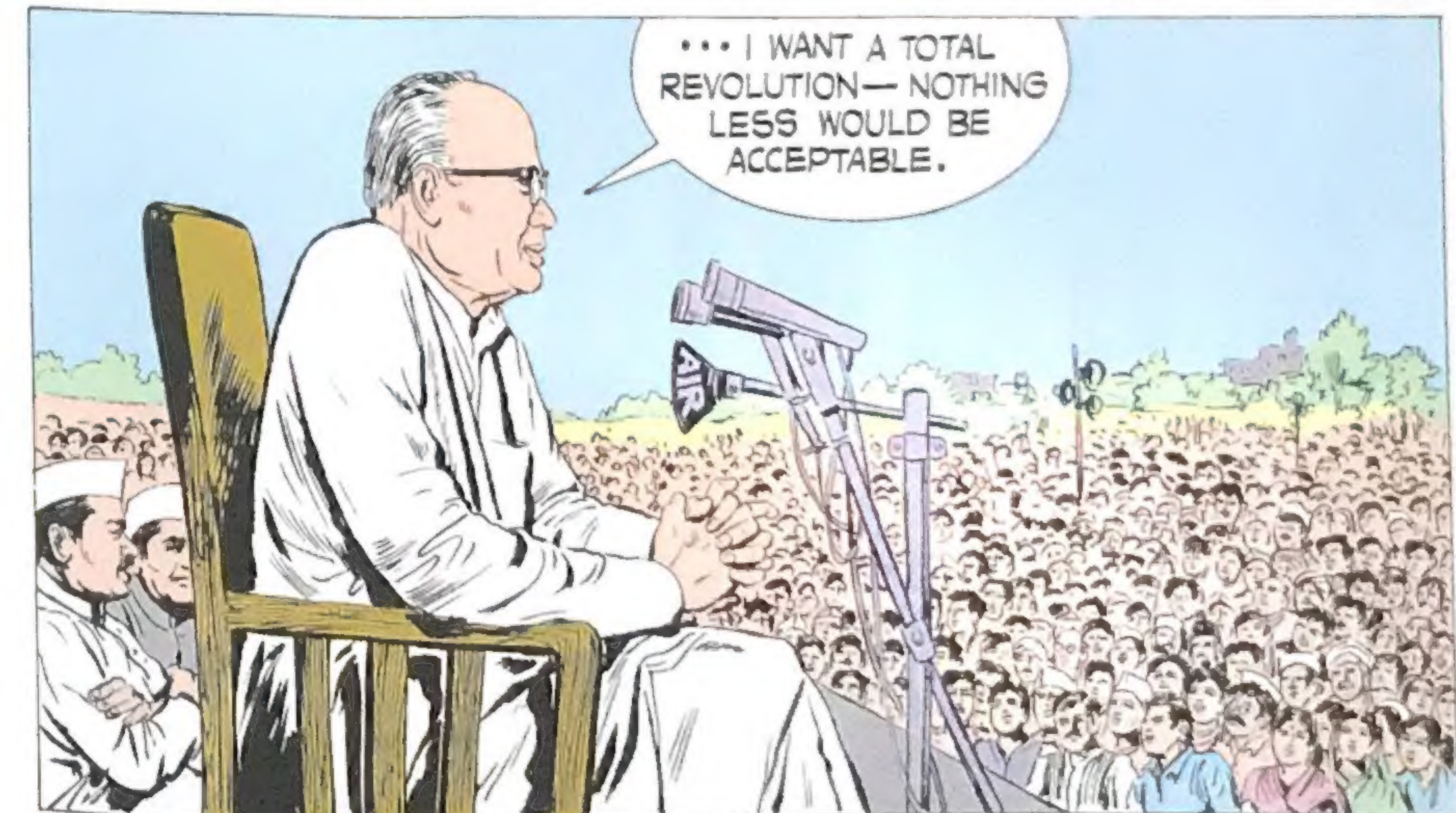


ON APRIL 8, 1974, JP LED A LONG AND SILENT MARCH.



ON JUNE 5, 1974, AT GANDHI MAIDAN IN BIHAR, JP GAVE THE CALL —

I HAVE DECIDED TO FIGHT CORRUPTION AND MISGOVERNMENT, BLACK-MARKETING, PROFITEERING AND HOARDING. I WILL FIGHT FOR A CHANGE IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND FOR A REAL PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY...



... I WANT A TOTAL REVOLUTION — NOTHING LESS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

JP'S SPEECH WAS LIKE A CLARION CALL ON NOVEMBER 4 THE SAME YEAR, THE POLICE BRUTALLY BEAT UP PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATORS IN PATNA. EVEN JP WAS NOT SPARED.



THAT SET IN A CHAIN REACTION AND DEVELOPMENTS TOOK PLACE AT A FAST PACE. ON JUNE 26, 1975—



OVERNIGHT, HUNDREDS OF OPPOSITION LEADERS WERE ARRESTED AND JAILED.

JP, WHO WAS IN JAIL, FELL VERY ILL. ON NOVEMBER 12, 1975, HE WAS FREED ON PAROLE AND TAKEN FOR TREATMENT TO JASLOK HOSPITAL IN BOMBAY.



THE PRESS WAS GAGGED BY PRE-CENSORSHIP. IN PROTEST, THE INDIAN EXPRESS LEFT ITS EDITORIAL COLUMN BLANK.



HIS ILLNESS CAUSED GREAT ANXIETY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

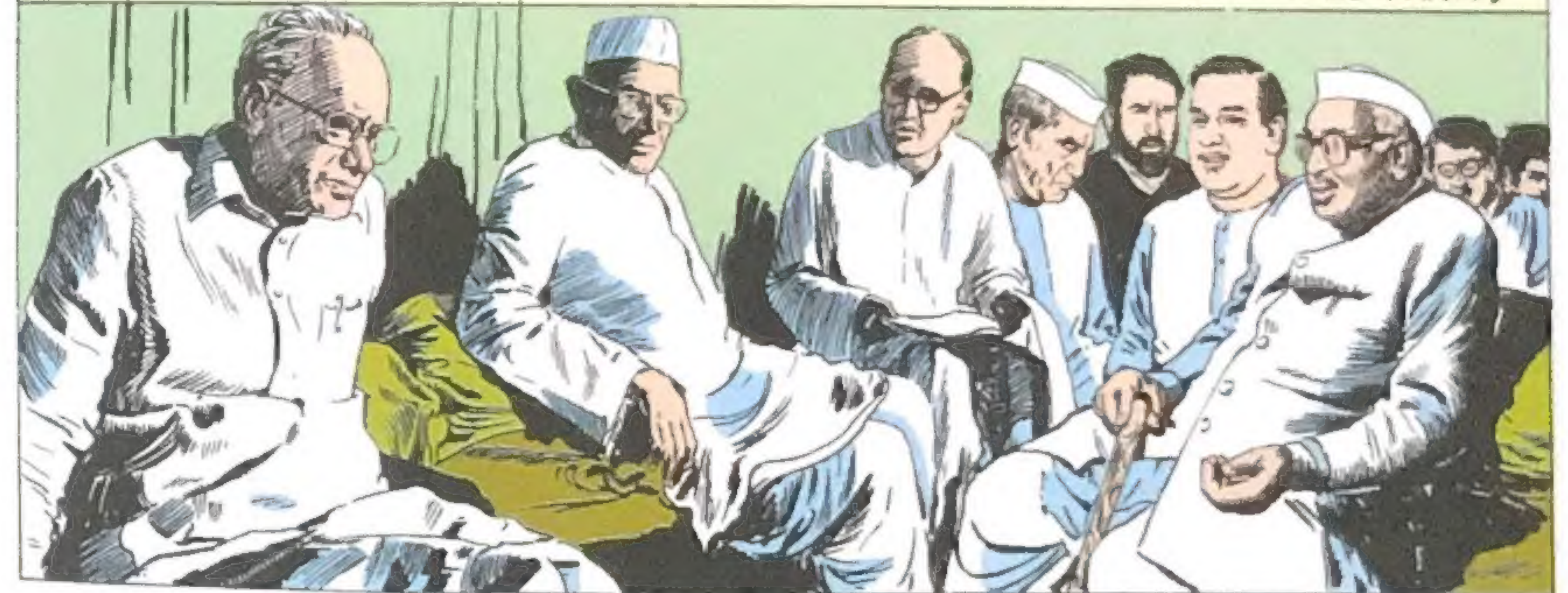


A MONTH LATER, WHEN HE WAS A LITTLE BETTER, JP WROTE AN OPEN LETTER FROM HIS HOSPITAL BED—

"I FEEL ASHAMED THAT WHILE ALL OF YOU ARE IN PRISON, I AM FREE.... MY ILLNESS HAS CREATED THIS SITUATION. IN SICKNESS I AM MORE HELPLESS THAN I WAS IN JAIL.... THE SACRIFICES OF THE.... THOUSANDS WILL NOT BE IN VAIN. INDIAN DEMOCRACY SHALL SUCCESSFULLY MEET THE PRESENT CHALLENGES AND SHALL, LIKE GOLD, EMERGE GLITTERING ALL THE MORE FOR ITS FIERY TRIAL...."

JASLOK 12-12-75

ON JANUARY 18, 1977, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT GENERAL ELECTIONS WOULD SOON BE HELD. OPPOSITION LEADERS WERE RELEASED. AT THE SUGGESTION OF JP, THE VARIOUS OPPOSITION PARTIES MERGED TO FORM A SINGLE UNITED PARTY.



IN MARCH 1977, THE RULING PARTY WAS ROUTED AT THE ELECTIONS. ON MARCH 24, 1977, AT RAJGHAT BY THE SIDE OF THE 'SAMADHI' OF GANDHIJI IN DELHI, LOKANAYAK JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN ADMINISTERED AN OATH TO THE NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT BELONGING TO THE JANATA PARTY AND URGED THEM TO COMPLETE THE UNFINISHED WORK OF THE FATHER OF THE NATION.



HAVING RE-LIT THE TORCH OF DEMOCRACY, JAYAPRAKASH, IN THE BEST TRADITION OF 'YOGIS' KEPT AWAY FROM THE CENTRE OF POWER. HIS ONLY CONCERN WAS TO KEEP THE TORCH OF TOTAL REVOLUTION BURNING.

